THURSDAY
June 1, 2023

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**This is to inform all our clients, patrons and public that a next door business** (at the Touchstone Building on Main Guard Cross Road, At B Block, next to Safina Plaza) named as "**Deepali Co. Pvt. Ltd.**" renamed as "**C. Krishniah Chetty & Co**", - **DOES NOT BELONG TO US**.

**Contempt of court is pending against the promoters of the above company. That showroom and business has been started on March 15th, 2023 in absolute contravention of existing court orders.**

**Multiple restraint orders are in force, despite which the owners Mr. C. Ganesh Narayan & Ms. C. Valli Narayan, along with Ms. Vidya Nataraj have commenced business, (Mr. C. Ganesh Narayan & Ms. C. Valli Narayan continue to be share holders & directors in C. Krishniah Chetty & Sons and CKC Group entities).**

Matters are sub judice in various courts. We will do everything in our power, legally, as Mr. C. Ganesh Narayan and Ms. C. Valli Narayan continue to be directors and share holders in C. Krishniah Chetty Group and are prohibited by law to conduct conflicting business with C. Krishniah Chetty Group. Contempt of court notice has been issued on the conflicting entity.

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HEALTH MINISTRY RULES

## OTT shows to carry anti-tobacco warning

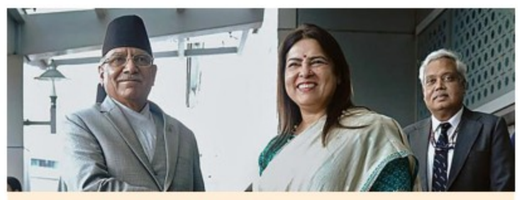
NEWS » PAGE 10

OVERLOOKED FACT

## *The increasing subordination of Parliament*

*The issue of power and a dominant executive*

EDITORIAL » PAGE 6



INDIA-NEPAL RELATIONS

## PM Prachanda arrives on 4-day visit to further ties

NEWS » PAGE 9

## Centre to provide air connectivity for Manipur's hill areas

**Vijaita Singh**
**Rahul Karmakar**
NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI

The Centre has promised to operationalise air services from the hill districts of Manipur to allow connectivity with the rest of the country, as tribal groups refuse to travel to Imphal airport fearing for their safety.

Home Minister Amit Shah "assured that supply of essential items in hill areas and helicopter services for emergency needs in Churachandpur, Moreh and Kangpokpi will be ensured", a Home Ministry statement said. On Wednesday, Mr. Shah visited Kangpokpi and Moreh on the Manipur-Myanmar border, where he met civil society groups and reviewed the security situation.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

# GDP expanded 6.1% in 2022-23's last quarter

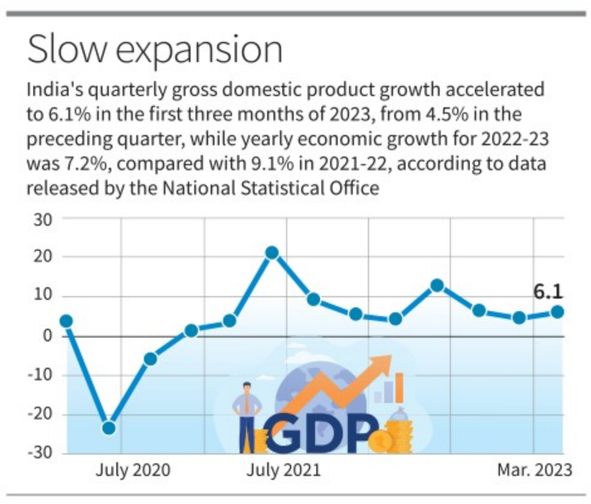
Full-year manufacturing GVA slid to 1.3% from 11.1%; only three of eight sectors, including farming and services, recorded higher GVA for FY23; despite Q4 uptick, consumption remained tepid

**Vikas Dhoot**
NEW DELHI

India's GDP growth accelerated to 6.1% in the January to March 2023 quarter, lifting the economy's expansion in 2022-23 to 7.2% from 7% estimated earlier, according to the provisional national income data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Wednesday.

The Gross Value Added (GVA) in the economy is reckoned to have risen 7% in 2022-23, compared with 8.8% in 2021-22. Manufacturing GVA growth slid to just 1.3% from 11.1% a year earlier, despite a 4.5% rebound in the final quarter after six months of contraction.

Economists noted that though several sectors delivered a positive surprise, especially in the last quarter of the year, consumption remained tepid and the overall growth pattern remains uneven.




**Farm, services growth**

The farm and services sectors buoyed economic outcomes as just three of eight broad economic activity segments recorded higher GVA growth than in 2021-22.

The agricultural GVA grew 4%, up from 3.5% in the previous year. The financial, real estate and professional services sectors saw their GVA grow 7.1%, compared with 4.7% in 2021-22. The GVA of the trade, hotels, transport, and communication sectors, as well as services related to broadcasting grew 14%, marginally faster than in the previous year.

**Revised GDP, GVA**

The NSO also revised GDP and GVA numbers lower for the first half of last year but bumped up the third quarter figures slightly. The first quarter's GDP growth in 2022-23 is now pegged at 13.1%, followed by a 6.2% rise in the second quarter and 4.5% growth in the third, higher than the 4.4% estimated in February.

In GVA terms, the final three months of 2022-23 recorded a three-quarter high of 6.5%.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

NEARBY

## City sees wettest May since 1957

BENGALURU
The downpour over the last few weeks in Bengaluru has resulted in a 66-year-old record being broken. » Page 3

## NIA raids 25 locations

MANGALURU
The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday raided 25 locations, including in Dakshina Kannada and Shivamogga districts, in connection with the investigation into alleged conspiracy of Popular Front of India (PFI) activists in radicalising and training cadre for carrying out acts of terror.

» Page 5

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# The show-stoppers who made it a riveting spectacle

Each of the 10 teams threw up a few standout performers who, during the course of the sporting extravaganza, provided thorough entertainment while striving for the success of their sides

IPL 2023

Keerthana Shankar

After two months of gripping cricket, filled with twists in the tale till the very last ball, the 16th edition of the Indian Premier League came to a close on Tuesday. Chennai Super Kings became the joint-most successful franchise, alongside Mumbai Indians, when it bagged its fifth title.

At the end of the day, there can only be one winner. But in such a competitive tournament, there was many a compelling performance by players from each dugout.

**Chennai Super Kings**

Ruturaj Gaikwad and Devon Conway, the top-two run-scorers for CSK, regularly gave their side tremendous starts. Previously, the right-hand-left-hand combination had worked wonders for CSK, and this season was no exception.

In the middle order, Shivam Dube flaunted his six-hitting prowess. The southpaw's explosive batting and ability to counter spin, lent an edge to CSK's innings on multiple occasions.

Matheesha Pathirana has undoubtedly been the find of the season for CSK. The young Lankan pacer, likened to the legendary Lasith Malinga, proved his mettle, especially during death overs.

**Gujarat Titans**

The stream of laurels never ceased for Shubman Gill in IPL 2023. The young batter, touted to be the next big thing in Indian cricket, toyed with the bowlers and racked up runs in another memorable campaign for Titans.

An experienced campaigner, Mohammed Shami proved that he was a valuable asset in T20s. He was a force to reckon with, especially in the PowerPlay where he picked up most of his wickets.

A net bowler in the preceding season, Mohit Sharma re-invented himself as an extremely dependable death bowler for GT. A true impact player, the skills he brought made the team's bowling unit potent.

**Mumbai Indians**

Despite a shaky start to the season, Suryakumar Yadav demonstrated why he is among the best in the business. The sensational batter carried his side with quickfire knocks, including a century against Titans.

Cameron Green made a great impact for MI. With his flexibility to bat anywhere in the order and ability to bowl a few handy overs, he did not succumb to the pressure of his price tag.

Piyush Chawla emerged as the highest wicket-taker for his side. He was the only dependable bowler for MI and his experience played a huge part in the team's qualification to the playoffs.

**Lucknow Super Giants**

After a couple of seasons where he failed to make his mark, Nicholas Pooran was at his flamboyant best this time around. He played numerous crucial knocks for LSG and was the differentiating factor for his side in a few games.

Ravi Bishnoi turned out to be the most effective bowler for LSG. The leg-spinner made important breakthroughs in the middle overs and helped slow down the momentum of the opposition.

A solid batter in the middle order, Marcus Stoinis' contributions to LSG cannot be overstated. His runs also came at a quick rate, meaning they were often key to the side's victory. He was also useful with the ball.

**Rajasthan Royals**

Yashasvi Jaiswal followed up a fantastic domestic season with an even better streak for RR. With the fastest-ever IPL fifty in just 13 balls and a hundred to boot, the prodigious batter was deservedly the 'Emerging Player of the Season'.

The highest wicket-taker in the league, Yuzvendra Chahal once again spun a web around batters. The leg-spinner continued where he left off last season and was as wily as ever.

R. Ashwin, the other half of RR's spin duo, was more parsimonious, though he did not pick many wickets. A thinking bowler and a left-hander's nemesis, he was pivotal in his side's campaign.

**Royal Challengers Bangalore**

The opening partnership between Faf du Plessis and Virat Kohli was one of the highlights of this season. The duo established a commendable rapport with each other, expertly rotating strike and helped the side post competitive totals.

Glenn Maxwell completed the trio of the prolific batters. The Australian maverick's improvised shot-making and and his ability to stitch rapid partnerships were critical factors that stood RCB in good stead.

Mohammed Siraj finally came into his own and was the leader of the pack. The **Purple Cap-winner Shami was a force to reckon with, especially in the PowerPlay where he snared most of his wickets** dexterity with which he swung the ball in the first six overs was an ever-present threat for the rival batters.

**Kolkata Knight Riders**

A finisher par excellence, Rinku Singh's incredible batting made improbable-looking chases possible. His extraordinary onslaught took the team over the line from difficult situations.

Varun Chakravarthy was back to being a mystery spinner and was nearly unplayable for much of the season. Adaptability was his strength as his skipper could call upon him at any point of the match.

Although he played only in the second half of the season, Jason Roy made his presence felt. He was the first opener to score a half-century and to be involved in the first 50-plus stand for the opening wicket for KKR.

**Punjab Kings**

An IPL veteran, Shikar Dhawan continued to be a reliable batter at the top of the order. During his knock of 99 n.o., he batted with the No. 11 and added 55 runs to his team's tally.

After being sidelined for a few editions, Prabhsimran Singh was given a full run this year. He capably assisted his captain while opening the batting and even scored a ton in a winning cause.

Arshdeep Singh, known for his yorkers at the death, was once again in the forefront for PBKS as the highest wicket-taker. The left-arm seamer's four-for against MI was quite memorable.

**Delhi Capitals**

Arguably one of the greatest batters the league has ever seen, David Warner crossed the 500-run mark for the seventh time this season. His dominance at the top was the only positive for DC on the batting front.

Axar Patel, with his all-round show, was one of the side's most treasured players. The fact that he ranks second in both the run-scoring and the wicket-taking charts, underlines his utility.

Ishant Sharma, considered a Test specialist, polished his T20 skills and made quite an impact for DC. He was able to both contain and strike during the PowerPlay as well as at the death.

**Sunrisers Hyderabad**

Heinrich Klaasen was the silver lining in SRH's campaign. The aggressive batter repeatedly cleared the ropes and was usually the prized scalp for the opponents.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar, regarded as one of the best seamers in the tournament, delivered this time too. His five-for against Titans was his best performance of the edition.

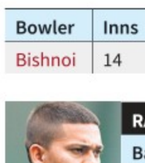
Mayank Markande put up a rejuvenated display for SRH. He was the side's main spinner, in the absence of Washington Sundar, and was able to return creditable figures on a couple of occasions.

Every squad in this IPL had the potential to go the distance, but the one with the most consistent showing tasted victory.

Teams have almost a year to regroup and revisit their strategy and come out stronger. Until then, it's Dhoni's men who will bask in the glory.

## Shining stars of the dugouts

The players who made their presence felt in each camp in the 16th edition of the Indian Premier League



**CHENNAI SUPER KINGS**

| Batters | Inns | Runs | HS | SR | 100s/50s |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Conway | 15 | 672 | 92* | 139.7 | 0/6 |
| Ruturaj | 15 | 590 | 92 | 147.5 | 0/4 |
| Dube | 14 | 418 | 52 | 158.33 | 0/3 |

| Bowler | Inns | Wkts | BBI | Eco | 4W/5W |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pathirana | 12 | 19 | 3/15 | 8 | - |

■ Conway and Ruturaj added 849 runs together, the highest-ever for Super Kings in a season

Partnership
Inns: 15 | Highest: 141 | 100s: 2 | 50s: 5

**GUJARAT TITANS**



| Batter | Inns | Runs | HS | SR | 100s/50s |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gill | 17 | 890 | 129 | 157.8 | 3/4 |

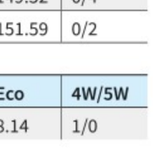
| Bowlers | Inns | Wkts | BBI | Eco | 4W/5W |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Shami | 17 | 28 | 4/11 | 8.03 | 0/2 |
| Mohit | 14 | 27 | 5/10 | 8.17 | 2/1 |

**MUMBAI INDIANS**

| Batters | Inns | Runs | HS | SR | 100s/50s |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Surya | 16 | 605 | 103* | 181.13 | 1/5 |
| Green | 16 | 452 | 100* | 160.28 | 1/2 |

| Bowler | Inns | Wkts | BBI | Eco | 4W/5W |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chawla | 16 | 22 | 3/22 | 8.11 | - |

**LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS**



| Batters | Inns | Runs | HS | SR | 100s/50s |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pooran | 15 | 358 | 62 | 172.94 | 0/2 |
| Stoinis | 15 | 408 | 89* | 150 | 0/3 |

| Bowler | Inns | Wkts | BBI | Eco | 4W/5W |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bishnoi | 14 | 16 | 3/28 | 7.74 | - |

**RAJASTHAN ROYALS**

| Batter | Inns | Runs | HS | SR | 100s/50s |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jaiswal | 14 | 625 | 124 | 163.61 | 1/5 |

| Bowlers | Inns | Wkts | BBI | Eco | 4W/5W |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chahal | 14 | 21 | 4/17 | 8.17 | 3/0 |
| R. Ashwin | 13 | 14 | 2/23 | 7.51 | - |

**ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE**



| Batters | Inns | Runs | HS | SR | 100s/50s |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Du Plessis | 14 | 730 | 84 | 153.68 | 0/8 |
| Kohli | 14 | 639 | 101* | 139.82 | 2/6 |
| Maxwell | 14 | 400 | 77 | 183.48 | 0/5 |

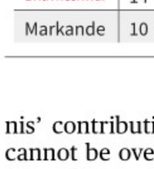
| Bowler | Inns | Wkts | BBI | Eco | 4W/5W |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Siraj | 14 | 19 | 4/21 | 7.52 | 1/0 |

■ The du Plessis-Kohli duo added 939 runs, equalling the record of de Villiers-Kohli (2016)

Partnership
Inns: 14 | Highest: 172 | 100s: 3 | 50s: 5

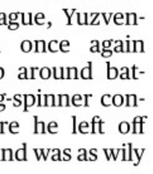
**KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS**

| Batters | Inns | Runs | HS | SR | 100s/50s |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rinku | 14 | 474 | 67* | 149.52 | 0/4 |
| Roy | 8 | 285 | 61 | 151.59 | 0/2 |

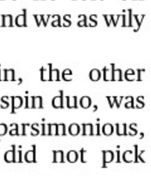


| Bowler | Inns | Wkts | BBI | Eco | 4W/5W |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Varun | 14 | 20 | 4/15 | 8.14 | 1/0 |

**PUNJAB KINGS**



| Batters | Inns | Runs | HS | SR | 100s/50s |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dhawan | 11 | 373 | 99* | 142.91 | 0/3 |
| Prabhsimran | 14 | 358 | 103 | 150.42 | 1/1 |



| Bowler | Inns | Wkts | BBI | Eco | 4W/5W |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arshdeep | 14 | 17 | 4/29 | 9.69 | 1/0 |



**DELHI CAPITALS**

| Batter | Inns | Runs | HS | SR | 100s/50s |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Warner | 14 | 516 | 86 | 131.63 | 0/6 |



| Bowlers | Inns | Wkts | BBI | Eco | 4W/5W |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Axar | 13 | 11 | 2/13 | 7.19 | - |
| Ishant | 8 | 10 | 2/19 | 8.24 | - |

**SUNRISERS HYDERABAD**



| Batter | Inns | Runs | HS | SR | 100s/50s |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Klaasen | 11 | 448 | 104 | 177.07 | 1/2 |



| Bowlers | Inns | Wkts | BBI | Eco | 4W/5W |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bhuvneshwar | 14 | 16 | 5/30 | 8.33 | 0/1 |
| Markande | 10 | 12 | 4/15 | 7.89 | 1/0 |

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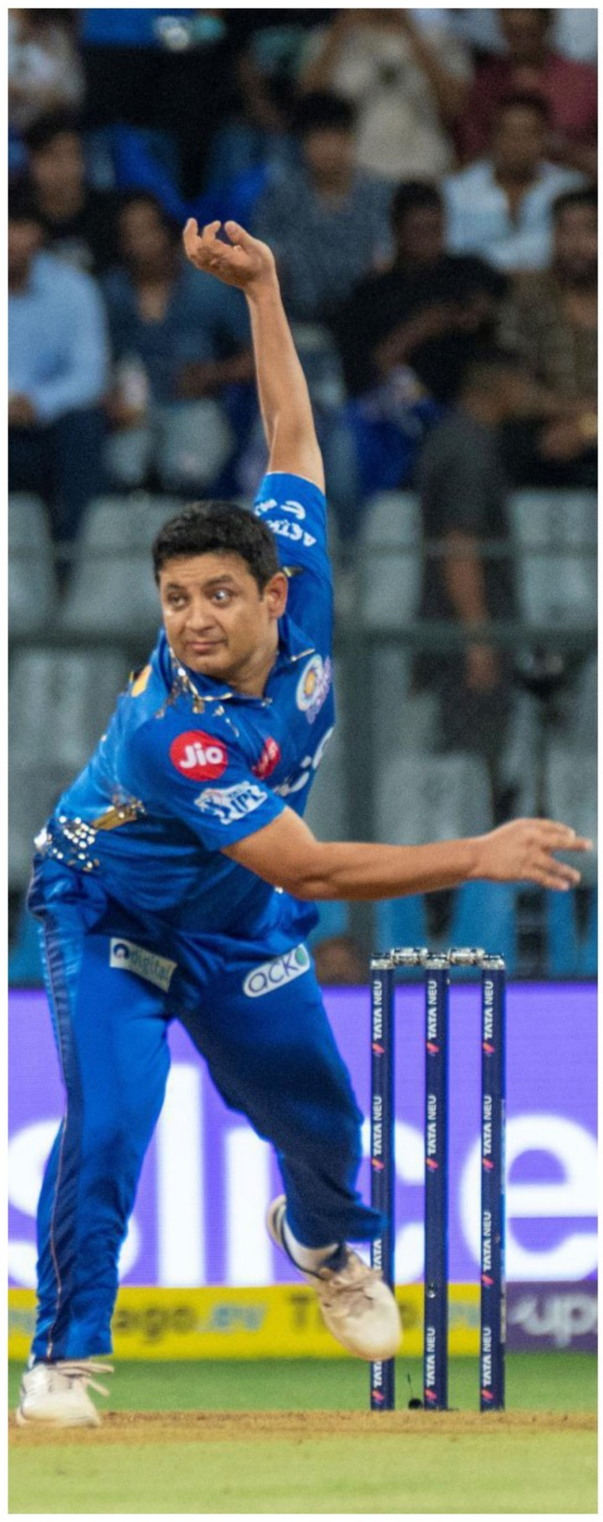

**Taking centrestage:** Ruturaj and Conway provided the spark at the top for Super Kings, Gill's class and consistency earned him the Orange Cap, Chawla made his experience count while claiming the most wickets for Mumbai Indians and Bishnoi gave the much-needed control in the middle overs for Super Giants. PTI, VIJAY SONEJI, GETTY IMAGES & EMMANUAL YOGINI

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# Amend law to make necrophilia an offence, HC tells Union govt.

'Attendants in many mortuaries of both government and private hospitals indulging in necrophilia'

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Observing that the attendants appointed to guard the bodies in mortuaries of many government and private hospitals indulge in "sexual intercourse" on the bodies, the High Court of Karnataka has recommended that the Union government amend the Indian Penal Code (IPC) to bring necrophilia under the definition of offence of unnatural sex or introduce new provision in IPC to make necrophilia as an offence.

Referring to laws in the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa where necrophilia is an offence, the court said that "unfortunately in India no specific legislation is enacted, including under the provisions of IPC for the purpose of upholding dignity and protecting rights and crime against the dead body of the woman."

A Division Bench comprising Justice B. Veerappa and Justice Venkatesh Naik T. passed the order while acquitting a man from the charges of raping a 25-year-old woman after murdering her.

The trial court in Tumakuru had convicted Rangaraju for murder and sexually assaulting her body.

Though the High Court confirmed his conviction for murder, it set aside the conviction on the charges of rape while pointing out that the act of sexual assault on the dead body cannot be termed as rape under Sections 377 (unnatural sex) and 376 (rape) the IPC.

**Section 376 of IPC**

Unfortunately, these provisions of the IPC do not include the term 'dead body', the Bench said while pointing out that sexual assault on dead bodies does not attract the provision of rape under Section 376 of IPC.

"It is high time for the State government to ensure such crimes do not happen, thereby maintaining dignity of the dead body of the woman," observed Justice B. Veerappa, who authored the judgment for the Bench.

"It is the high time for the Union government, in order to maintain right to dignity of the dead person/woman, to amend the provisions of Section 377 of IPC to include dead body of any man, woman or animal or to introduce a separate provision as offence against dead woman as necrophilia or sadism" as has been done in other countries to ensure dignity of the dead person including woman, the Bench observed.

**Mortuary monitoring**

Meanwhile, the Bench directed the State government to ensure installation of CCTV cameras in the mortuaries of all the government and private hospitals to prevent offence against dead bodies, particularly of women, within six months.

The Bench also directed the government to ensure mortuaries are regularly cleaned so that dead body is preserved in a proper manner to maintain its dignity and sensitise staff of mortuary to handle dead bodies with care.

The postmortem room should not come under the direct line of sight of the general public/visitors for maintaining privacy; and mortuaries should have all basic infrastructure as per the Indian Public Health Standard guidelines for the district hospitals for management of the dead bodies, the Bench said.

# Dayananda takes over as Police Commissioner

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

B. Dayananda taking over as the Police Commissioner from C.H. Pratap Reddy on Wednesday.

Focus on traffic management and cybercrime are the top priorities of B. Dayananda, who took over as the Police Commissioner of Bengaluru on Wednesday. The outgoing Commissioner C.H. Pratap Reddy handed over the baton to Mr. Dayananda.

Speaking to media persons, Mr. Dayananda said, "People have trust in the department, and I will work hard to retain that trust. There are many challenges, and they will be taken up on priority. Traffic management in the city needs coordination from civic agencies. The department will work with the agencies to manage traffic in a better way."

He said there is no decision yet on bringing back the towing system. The department will study the pros and cons, and submit a report to the government.

Cybercrime is another challenge faced by the police in Bengaluru. There is an overload of cases in cyber crime stations and the police require training to investigate the cases effectively, he pointed out. He said the required training will be provided to all the police officials to handle cybercrime cases at regular stations, which can help reduce the burden on cyber crime police personnel.

He also said his focus will be on strengthening the force to ensure people-friendly police and justice for all. People approach senior police officers only when they do not get respite at the station level. One of the priorities is that people are heard and get their issues resolved at the station level, he said.

"Containing rowdy activities and keeping a tab on social media to contain provocative and inflammatory posts for necessary action will be on the list. Strengthening the intelligence wing, which is the backbone of every force, is also on priority. The wing will be technically upgraded for predicting policing and to monitor anti-social and subversive activities effectively," he added.

# #THtalksBengaluru: Live chat with BMTC MD today

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

From a lack of services during the late evening hours to last-mile connectivity, citizens have often flagged issues with the city bus services provided by the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC).

**28 lakh ridership**

Despite more options being available now, including Namma Metro, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses continue to be the lifeline of the public transport in burgeoning Bengaluru, catering to an average ridership of around 28 lakh.

**Q and A**

On Thursday, IAS officer Sathyavathi G., Managing Director of BMTC, will answer your questions as she participates in #THtalksBengaluru, a live chat with *The Hindu* and its readers from 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

You can send in your questions to us via mail (letters.bangalore@thehindu.co.in) or on our Twitter handle (@THBengaluru) right away, apart from participating in the live chat.

Visit: https://tinyurl.com/BMTCMD

At a glance

| | |
|---|---|
| No of schedules | 5,563 |
| No. of vehicles | 6,767 daily |
| Service km | 10.51 lakh |
| No. of trips | 5,4429 |
| Depots: 50 | |
| Bus stations 48 | Daily traffic revenue ₹4.43 crore |
| Staff employed 29,412 | |
| Bus staff ratio | 5.29 |

*Data as on February 28, 2023
Source: BMTC

# Lawyers bid farewell to 'tiger' judge

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar with B. Veerappa, who retired on Wednesday after serving as a judge of the High Court, in Bengaluru. PTI

Justice B. Veerappa of the High Court of Karnataka, known to be fearless and straightforward, sometimes "roared" in the court hall and earned fame as "tiger" in the fraternity of lawyers, Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale said here on Wednesday.

The Chief Justice was speaking at the ceremonial function organised by the High Court and the Karnataka State Bar Council to bid farewell to Justice B. Veerappa, who retired on Wednesday after serving as a judge of the High Court for about eight years.

"Ancient philosopher Plato in his classic work the *Republic* refers to essential qualities of a judge as wisdom, fearlessness, patience, and justice," said Chief Justice Varale.

The Chief Justice hailed the role of Justice Veerappa both as a judge of the High Court and the Executive Chairperson of the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA). Justice Veerappa had personally visited and reviewed the facilities in 26 government hospitals and 11 prisons across the State as the head of the KSLSA, the Chief Justice said.

Justice Veerappa had driven the team of the KSLSA and judicial officers to amicably settle around 1.8 crore cases, both pending in the courts and pre-litigation cases, during the last six national-level Lok Adalats held during the past 18 months, said KSBC chairman Vishalaraghu H.L.

At another event organised by the Advocates' Association, Bengaluru, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said Justice Veerappa's judgments gave justice to the people belonging to weaker sections of society. The Chief Minister assured the members of the AAB of a favourable decision on their demand for enacting the Advocates' Protection Act.

# CM gives nod to continue hostel tender work

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday instructed the Public Works Department to continue the tender process for proposed construction of hostel building on the premises of Siddaganga Mutt in Tumakuru.

His direction came after he reviewed the request submitted by the department regarding the continuation of the tender process in the interest of thousands of students studying in the mutt. The CM instructed the PWD to consider it as a special case and continue the process. According to the CM's office, the pending works in the PWD were halted for review. This included construction of hostel on the mutt premises at an estimated cost of ₹9.9 crore.

# Dak Adalat on June 26

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The office of the Postmaster General, South Karnataka Region, Bengaluru, will hold Regional Dak Adalat on postal complaints on June 26 at 3 p.m. at the Conference Room of the Postmaster General, SK Region, Bengaluru-560001.

**Grievances**

According to a release from the Postmaster General, grievances on postal matters pertaining to South Karnataka Region comprising of Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga, Davangere, Hassan, Kolar, Kodagu, Mandya, Dakshina Kannada, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Shivamogga, Tumakuru, and Udupi districts may furnish the details of grievances by June 20 to the Assistant Director,Postmaster General, South Karnataka Region, 2nd Floor, GPO building, Bengaluru- 560001. Grievances can be sent to ir.karsk@indiapost.gov.in, the release stated.

**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY** G20

**E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2023-24/14**
**Dated: 26-05-2023.**
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

| Description of work | Approx. Value |
|---|---|
| Improvements of Illumination at Railway Hospital Mysuru. | Rs. 57,63,062/- |

Last date for submission of bids :
**Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 19-06-2023**
**For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in**
**Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Mysuru**
PUB/132/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY** G20

**E-Tender Notice No. B/TRD.2023-24/03**
**Dated: 29-05-2023**
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tender for the following work:

| Name of work | Approx. Value |
|---|---|
| Bangarapet-Rehabilitation / Periodic over hauling of TR 02 at Bangarapet TSS. | Rs. 1,07,57,923.70 |

Last date for submission of bids for:
**Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 19-06-2023**
**For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in**
**Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer Traction Distribution, Bengaluru**
PUB/133/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General public are hereby informed that, our client **MR.ANIL LAJPATRAI LALA @ ANIL LALA AND MRS.SANGEETA LALA** have **lost** the Duplicate copy of the original Sale deed dated 09-03-2005, registered as document No.31214/2004-05, in respect of the property bearing Unit No.001, in project **"RMZ GATEWAY"**, situated at **Ejipura Village (Presently 4th Block Koramangala), Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** now assigned with Municipal No.63, 100 Feet Road, Shinivagilu (Corporation ward No.68), while taking Xerox at Koramangala. If any body found the said document please contact this Nos.**9844155041 and 7592891175**
**V.S.Rai & Associates, LAW FIRM**
No.23,"Venkatadri" 6th Main,
5th Cross, S.R.Nagar, Bangalore-27.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public are hereby notified that our Client is desirous of purchasing immovable property more particularly described in the **'Schedule'** hereunder and referred to herein collectively as the **'Schedule Property'** from its present owner, **Sri. B.N. RAMESH** (hereinafter referred to as the "Owner").

The Owner has represented to our Client that it is the sole and absolute owner of the Schedule Property, having a clear and marketable title and unrestricted rights of alienation over the same. The Owner has further represented that the Schedule Property is free from all kinds of encumbrances, charges, lien, litigation and/ or any third-party rights/claims of any nature whatsoever.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any persons having or asserting any benefits, objection, demand, claim, right, title and/or interest in respect of the Schedule Property, or any part or portion thereof, of any nature whatsoever, are hereby called upon to notify the same in writing, together with all details and original documents in support of such claim, to the undersigned at the address mentioned below within a period of **15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of this Notice, failing which, it shall be conclusively presumed and deemed that the aforesaid Owner has a clear and marketable title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property. In such event, our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the proposed transaction in respect of the Schedule Property on the basis that there are no objections and/or claims whatsoever with respect thereto. Any objections and/or claims received after the expiry of the period mentioned above shall neither be entertained nor shall be binding on our Client.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing No.**138/3/113,** BBMP New Municipal No. 131/132/134/138/3/113, in Sy.N.138/3, situated at 2nd Cross, Sarvaboumanagar, Bilekahalli, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560076, **measuring East to West 40 feet (12.19 mtrs) North to South 60 feet (18.20 Mtrs) meters and total measuring 2400 Sq. Ft. (222.96 sq.mtrs)** which consist of Ground Floor and First Floor of about 2000 sq.ft with one bedroom with attached toilet, drawing room, dining room, Kitchen and general Toilet with Car parking Garage in Ground floor, and 3 bedrooms, two toilets, living room and sit out in the first floor, with electricity and Cauvery water facilities, a open garden and car parking, with RCC roofing house and bounded on.

On the East by : Site No. 149, On the West by : Site No. 114, On the North by : Site No.112, On the South by : Road.

Place : Bengaluru Dated: 1st June, 2023
**NIRMALA KRISHNA,** Advocate
#102, 1st Floor, Olety Building, V.V Puram, Bengaluru - 560 004. Tel: 9886918910
**Email:** nirmalakrishnaa1@gmail.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public are hereby informed that my client is intending to Purchase the property more fully described in the Schedule hereunder from its present owner **Sri. J. Sachidananda**, who has represented that he has a clear and marketable title to the same. Any person/s, financial institutions, statutory authorities or any other persons/s representing any private or public companies or any partnership firm or any society who claim any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule Property and/or has any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned, within Seven (7) days from the date of issue of this notice with documentary evidence failing which, it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and any objection/s or claims made thereafter will not be binding on my clients and my clients would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owner thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing **No.43, having BBMP Form-B Register Extract Property No: 137/43, (carved out of Sy.No.4 of Chikkabettahalli Village) situated at 5th Cross in the layout known as Swagath Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Chikkabettahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore 560097, (falling under the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward-3 Attur), comprising of land measuring East to West 9.14Mtrs., and North to South 12.19 Mtrs., totally measuring about 111.42 Sq.Mtrs., (approximate 1200 Sq.ft.,) along with a building constructed thereon measuring about 111.51 Sq. Mtrs.,** consisting of ground and first floors having RCC roofing, Vitrified flooring with Honne wood doors and windows and bounded on the:

**East by** : Property bearing No.44
**West by** : Property bearing No.42,
**North by** : 25Ft Road
**South by** : Property bearing No.53,

**B.R.Ravi Kumar**
**Advocates**
No. 537, 10th 'B' Cross, Yelahanka New Town, **Bangalore - 560 064**

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General Manager (P&A), ANIIDCO

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

**Before the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, Vatakara**
**OP (MV) 1044/2021**

**Rajeevan V.M.** : *Petitioner*
**Selvaraju and Others**: *Respondents*
**Selvaraju**, S/o. Sellappa Gounder, No.7 RC Complex, 206-261 S.G.Muttroad, Chamrajpet, Bangalore - 560018: *Respondent No.1*

That the above case is posted to 02.08.2023 for the appearance of respondent No.1 otherwise he will be set exparte by the Hon'ble Court

(Sd/-) **A.Hareesh**
Advocate for Petitioner

**PERSONAL**

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**I, JOSHI** Suman, W/o Sunil Garde, R/at No. 907, 6th-D-Cross, 1st Main, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bengaluru-560060, have changed my name from Joshi Suman to Shantala Garde vide affidavit dated 20-03-2023 before Notary N.Kanchivaradaraju Bangalore.

**I, JIWAN** Mahanta, resident of Village: Borigaon, PO: Khawrang, Mouza & P.S. Udalguri, Dist. Udalguri, BTAD, Assam hereby declare that my correct name is Jiwan Mahanta, my father's correct name is Rudhra Mahanta and my mother's correct name is Meera Devi. Whereas in my HSLC and HS academic records our names have been recorded as Jiwan, Rudhra and Meera respectively. I, further declare that both the names of each person one and the same. Hence this affidavit dt. 03.01.2018 sworn before Notary D Saharia, Udalguri Dist.

# Neuralink human trials: have all concerns been addressed?

Neuralink is making a Class III medical device known as a brain-computer interface. The device connects the brain to an external computer via a Bluetooth signal, enabling continuous communication back and forth. It could revolutionise treatment for conditions such as Parkinson's.

**David Tuffley**

Since its founding in 2016, Elon Musk's neurotechnology company Neuralink has had the ambitious mission to build a next-generation brain implant with at least 100-times more brain connections than devices currently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The company has now reached a significant milestone, having received FDA approval to begin human trials. So what were the issues keeping the technology in the pre-clinical trial phase for as long as it was? And have these concerns been addressed?

## What is Neuralink?

Neuralink is making a Class III medical device known as a brain-computer interface (BCI). The device connects the brain to an external computer via a Bluetooth signal, enabling continuous communication back and forth.

The device itself is a coin-sized unit called a Link. It's implanted within a small disk-shaped cutout in the skull using a precision surgical robot. The robot splices a thousand tiny threads from the Link to certain neurons in the brain. Each thread is about a quarter the diameter of a human hair.

## Potential benefits

If Neuralink's BCI can be made to work safely on humans, I believe the potential benefits would make the effort worthwhile.

The company says the device could enable precise control of prosthetic limbs, giving amputees natural motor skills. It could revolutionise treatment for conditions such as Parkinson's disease, epilepsy and spinal cord injuries. It also shows some promise for potential treatment of obesity, autism, depression, schizophrenia and tinnitus.

Several other neurotechnology companies and researchers have already developed BCI technologies that have helped people with limited mobility regain movement and complete daily tasks.

BCIs have also been used to help older people train their motor and cognitive abilities to moderate the worst effects of ageing.

## Long road to human trials

In February 2021, Musk said Neuralink was working with the FDA to secure permission to start initial human trials later that year. But human trials didn't commence in 2021.

Then, in March 2022, Neuralink made a further application to the FDA to establish its readiness to begin humans trials.

One year and three months later, on May 25 2023, Neuralink finally received FDA approval for its first human clinical trial. Given how hard Neuralink has pushed for permission to begin, we can assume it will begin very soon.

The approval has come less than six months after the US Office of the Inspector General launched an investigation into Neuralink over potential animal welfare violations.

## The FDA's concerns

The FDA had quite a list of issues that needed to be resolved before human trials could commence, as was reported in a Reuters investigation, which claimed to have spoken to several Neuralink sources.

Musk's Neuralink plans to place a 'Link' in the patient's skull . REUTERS/MIKE BLAKE

Most of these concerns called for Neuralink to perform thorough and repeated testing and data collection over an extended period. This was likely a deciding factor in why the approval process to begin human testing took as long as it did.

It can't be said with certainty that all of the issues have been fully resolved. But considering the rigour of the FDA's approval process, we might conclude they have at least been resolved to a point of satisfaction for the FDA.

**Safe surgery** – A precision robot known as Implant/r1 performs the surgical procedure to implant the Neuralink BCI. This robot surgeon had to be put through its paces to gather evidence that it could reliably and safely implant and remove the Neuralink BCI without damaging surrounding brain tissue, or creating the risk of infection, bleeding, inflammation or scarring.

**Harmful side effects** – Once implanted, the Neuralink BCI must function as intended. It must not unintentionally influence other brain functions, or cause any unwanted side effects such as seizures, headaches, mood changes, or cognitive impairment.

**Safe power supply** – In particular, overheating lithium-ion batteries can pose great risk to BCI users. When defective, such batteries have historically been known to overheat. They can even explode if the insulation between the cathode and anode (the metal electrode components) breaks down, resulting in a short circuit.

The longevity of the battery was also taken into account, as well as how easy it would be to safely replace from its position under the skin behind the ear. Since the FDA's previous rejection, extensive tests have been conducted on the specially designed Neuralink battery to evaluate its performance, durability and bio-compatibility.

**Wire migration** – Then there is the risk of wire migration. The Link consists of a disk-shaped chip with very thin wire electrodes that connect to neurons in the brain. Connecting these wires by means of a surgical robot is a major challenge in itself. But there is also the possibility the electrodes could move elsewhere in the brain over time due to natural movement, inflammation, or scar tissue formation. This would likely affect the proper functioning of the device, and could cause infection or damage to the brain tissue.

> When defective, such batteries have historically been known to overheat. They can even explode if the insulation between the cathode and anode (the metal electrode components) breaks down, resulting in a short circuit.

Neuralink had to conduct extensive animal studies and provide evidence its wires did not migrate significantly over time, or cause any adverse effects on the brain. The company also had to show it had a method for tracking and adjusting the position of the wires if this became necessary.

**Implant removal** – Another challenge Neuralink faced was that of safe implant removal. The FDA wanted to know how easy or difficult it would be to remove the device from the brain if this became necessary.

**Data privacy and security** – Strong safeguards are required to prevent data collected by the Link from being hacked, manipulated or otherwise misused. Neuralink would have had to assure the FDA it could avoid nightmare scenarios of hackers rendering its Link users vulnerable to interference, as well as guaranteeing the privacy of brain-wave data generated by the device.

## The way ahead

Critics acknowledge the potential benefits of Neuralink, but caution the company to hasten slowly. Adequately addressing these issues will take time - and corners must not be cut when arriving at a solution.

Beyond the Link's potential medical uses, Musk has made many radical claims regarding his future vision for the technology. He has claimed Neuralink could augment human intelligence by creating an on-demand connection with artificial intelligence systems - allowing, for example, improved cognition through enhanced memory, and improved learning and problem-solving skills.

He has even gone as far as to say the Link could allow high-bandwidth telepathic communication between two or more people connected via a mediating computer. Common sense would suggest these claims be put in the "I'll believe it when I see it" category.

The situation with Neuralink has clear parallels with current advancements in artificial intelligence (and the growing need to regulate it). As exciting as these technologies are, they must not be released to the public until proven to be safe. This can only be achieved by exhaustive testing.

*(David Tuffley is senior lecturer in Applied Ethics & CyberSecurity, Griffith University. This article is republished from* The Conversation*)*

The immense weight of New York City's buildings, estimated to be around 771 billion kg, is making the island buckle. REUTERS

# *The Venice of the West? New York city is sinking under its own weight*

**Arkatapa Basu**

The city that never sleeps is slowly sinking under its own weight, a new study has revealed. New York is reportedly sagging at the rate of 1-2 mm/year, even as the sea level rises. It is one of the most densely populated cities in the world, with a population of over 8 million people.

It is also home to nearly a million buildings, including numerous skyscrapers. The immense weight of these structures, estimated to be around 771 billion kg, is causing the city to buckle, the study said. Lower Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn in particular are at higher risk.

Located at the tip of New York state, where the Hudson River meets the Atlantic Ocean, New York City is famously vulnerable to natural disasters. "New York faces significant challenges from flood hazard; the threat of sea level rise is three-to four-times higher than the global average along the Atlantic coast of North America," lead researcher Tom Parsons wrote in a *New York Post* article.

> **The sinking of the Big Apple will not only affect the millions of people living there: the city will also have to adapt to the increasing threat of rising seas and frequent hurricanes. It already ranks third worldwide in terms of assets exposed to coastal flooding**

Hurricane Sandy forced seawater from the Atlantic into the city while the deluge from Hurricane Ida flooded the drainage systems. Researchers fear that repeated storms, rising sea levels and anthropogenic activities will compromise the structural integrity of numerous buildings in the city. Constant exposure to saltwater, due to sea-level rise, can also corrode reinforced steel and chemically weaken concrete.

The sinking of the Big Apple will not only affect the millions of people living there: the city will also have to adapt to the increasing threat of rising seas and frequent hurricanes. It already ranks third worldwide in terms of assets exposed to coastal flooding: 90% of the 67,400 structures built in the expanded flood risk area after Hurricane Sandy have not been built according to floodplain standards.

The researchers also pointed out that apart from the natural subsidence of the land, caused by geologic effects, groundwater over-extraction and heavy construction have exacerbated the sinking problem. New York isn't the only city facing these challenges; Jakarta is another example. The crisis is also emblematic of those in coastal cities around the world, often as a result of global warming.

## THE SCIENCE QUIZ

# On the wonderful human body and its fascinating musculature

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

**Suresh Seshadri**

**QUESTION 1**

X is a muscle in the body that functions non-stop right through one's life. Name X

**QUESTION 2**

This is the largest muscle in the body and was crucial in helping homo erectus, and now homo sapiens, stay erect by keeping the trunk of the body upright. What is the name of this muscle?

**QUESTION 3**

There are three types of muscles in the body. One of them is called skeletal and is attached to bones or in some cases the skin. _____ muscle is the name of the muscle type found in the uterus and intestines. Fill in the blank.

**QUESTION 4**

Muscles are activated when they receive signals from the nervous system. What is the name of the chemical that triggers them into action?

**QUESTION 5**

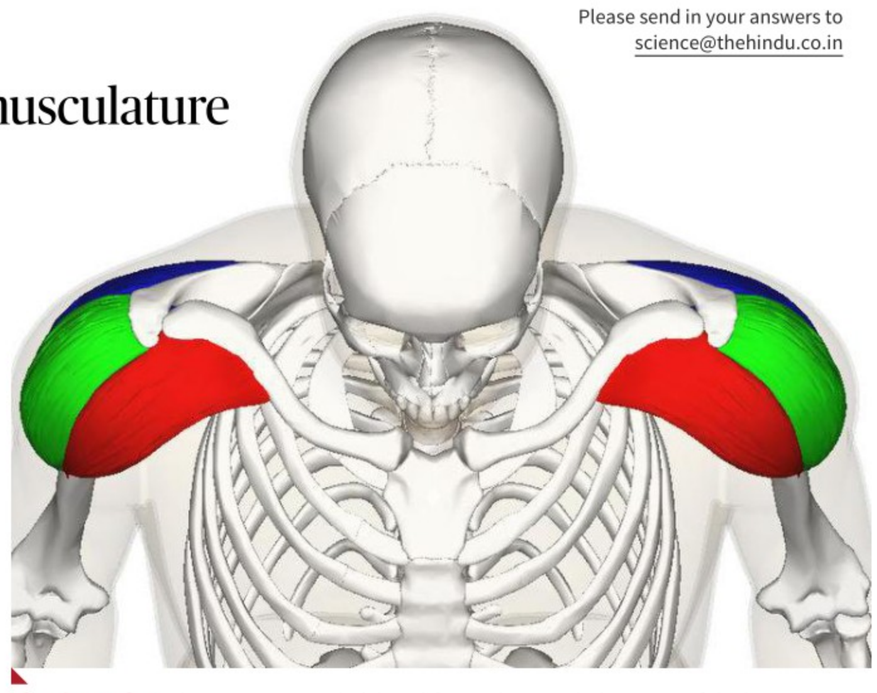
One increasingly hears about the beneficial health effects of walking. One of these benefits is associated with the cardiovascular system and can be laid at the doorstep of the 'secondary or little heart'. Where is this muscle located?

**Answers to May 30 quiz:**

1. Method to calculate Bernoulli numbers – **Ans: First complex computer program**
2. Shape of string sagging between two poles – **Ans: Catenary**
3. Path of bead travelled in shortest time – **Ans: Brachistochrone curve**
4. Vehicle component based on Bernoulli's principle – **Ans: Carburetor**
5. Problem based on successive coin tosses – **Ans: St. Petersburg's lottery**

Visual – **Ans: Leonhard Euler**

**First contact:** P.N. Moorthy | K. Yashwant | Barath R. | Siva Shakthi A.



**Visual question:** The _____ muscle (above) forms the rounded contour of the human shoulder and is also known as the 'common shoulder muscle'. ANATOMOGRAPHY (CC BY-SA 2.1)

**For feedback and suggestions** for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

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FRONTLINE
INDIA'S NATIONAL MAGAZINE

# City sees wettest May since 1957

Record rainfall during the month can be attributed to climate variability and not climate change, according to experts

B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi near K.R. Circle after the heavy rain on May 21. K. MURALI KUMAR

**Hemanth C.S.**
BENGALURU

The heavy downpour over the last few weeks in Bengaluru has resulted in a 66-year-old record being broken.

The city has witnessed the wettest May since 1957 as it recorded 301.3 mm (31cm) of rainfall. The previous highest record for the month of May was in 1957 when 287.1 mm rainfall was recorded, said A. Prasad, scientist, Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) Bengaluru.

**Normal is 13 cm**

Mr. Prasad added that the normal rainfall for the month of May in Bengaluru city was 13 cm for the period 1991 to 2020, but this year it has gone to 31 cm.

On May 30 the city recorded 65.2 mm rainfall which is the highest for this month. On May 30 the Kempegowda International Airport and HAL Airport recorded 7 mm and 32.4 mm rainfall respectively.

Rainfall in May

| Year | Rainfall (cm) |
|---|---|
| 2023 | 31 |
| 2022 | 27 |
| 2021 | 13 |
| 2020 | 13 |
| 2019 | 15 |
| 2018 | 24 |
| 2017 | 24 |
| 2016 | 14 |
| 2015 | 8 |

"We can attribute it to climate variability and not climate change. Climate change is a paradigm shift in climatic patterns. If you look at the seasonal rainfall in Bengaluru June, July, August and September are the monsoon months and during these four months Bengaluru has to receive 60 cm. Only on three occasions in 2013 2017 and 2022 it has hit above normal and all other years it has been normal and only one year in 2019 it was slightly below normal," Mr. Prasad said.

**Moisture holding capacity**

He added that a one-degree rise in temperature causes a seven percent increase in moisture-holding capacity.

"If there is an increase in moisture-holding capacity the air is drier and therefore what happens is thunderstorm activity will be more and cyclonic storm activity will be less. Thunderstorm activity will be intense and its frequency will also increase," he said.

The IMD forecast for the next 48 hours is cloudy sky, light to moderate rain and thundershowers very likely to occur towards evening and night. "Gusty winds with speed reaching (30 to 40) kmph are very likely during thunder activity. Maximum and Minimum temperatures are very likely to be around 31 and 20 Degree Celsius respectively," the IMD forecast stated.

# BBMP faces pothole challenge as it races against time to prepare for monsoon

**Shreyas H.S.**
BENGALURU

With the city receiving pre-monsoon showers, more potholes are appearing on the roads, posing a threat to motorists. As monsoon is fast approaching, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is racing against time to fix them.

In a neatly planned South Bengaluru, many arterial and sub-arterial streets are currently riddled with large craters due to half-finished drains and metro work. If it rains, water covers these potholes, causing accidents. Unless BBMP swings into action, these are accidents waiting to happen, say citizens.

After rains, many roads in Bengaluru develop potholes, leaving them unmotorable and leading to accidents. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

**Roads dug up**

Rajgopal A., a resident of Jayanagar 5th block, said roads were dug up to install large cement pipes after which the roads were not asphalted. Due to rain, craters have formed, and even four-wheelers find it hard to steer through these stretches. Ironically, the road is located close to the office of Tejasvi Surya, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Bengaluru South. However, due to pre-monsoon showers, BBMP is delaying asphalting the roads.

Vajapeyam Srivatsa, a resident of Banashankari 6th stage, alleged that the quality of roads is so poor that they are unable to sustain rainfall. On the other hand, asphalting of streets inside the residential layouts in Hemmigepura ward has failed to see the light of the day.

Mr. Srivatsa further said, "During monsoon, these potholes will be filled with water. The BBMP officials point fingers at the BDA, arguing that areas still come under their ambit and the civic body is helpless. The BDA officials maintain that as the layout is being developed, potholes will be fixed during fresh asphalting. But the residents have to continue to suffer due to the lethargy of the officials."

**Unmotorable roads**

Pavitra Pawar, a resident of Bande Mutt in Kengeri Satellite Town, talking to *The Hindu*, said the under-developed layout is full of potholes. "Children who are cycling often skid and fall. The situation of the road has been the same for many years, and the condition has not changed even after the area was handed over to the BBMP. During rain, many roads become unmotorable, forcing the residents to think twice before using their vehicles," she said.

It may be recalled that at least three people died in the tech city due to potholes last year, after which BBMP was taken to task by the government.

The civic body took the matter seriously and started carrying out the patchwork. The BBMP says pothole fixing is a continuous process, and as and when a complaint is received on the FixMyStreet application, the workers fill the potholes.

B.S. Prahlad, Chief Engineer (Road Infrastructure), BBMP said pre-monsoon showers do not stop them from fixing potholes, which is a routine affair round the year.

The civic body has come up with cold mix asphalting technology. Cold mix asphalt can be spread out without the use of machines. The BBMP has also set up a cold mix plant and soon a shelter will be built to protect the same from rain and gushing winds.

# December 2024: New Minister's new deadline for restoration of Bellandur lake

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The restoration work of Bellandur lake, one of the city's largest, will be finished by December 2024, announced newly appointed Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on Wednesday after visiting the lake. He said that work is happening in full swing on the 14 Sewage Treatment Plants (STP), which are needed to keep the sewage water from flowing into the lake.

"The restoration work of the lake was delayed due to some practical problems, mainly the inflow of sewage water. Around 550 Minimum Liquid Discharge (MLD) sewage water comes into that lake, according to experts. The STPs are expected to solve these issues. The work is going on on the upgrade of five old STPs and the set up of nine new ones. The officials have assured that the work will be completed by December 2024," said Mr. Khandre.

He also said that while 50 per cent of the desilting work is now complete, there is no place to dump the silt as there is severe opposition from the local residents near quarries. "There were lakhs of tonnes of silt in the lake, and while half of the silt which was removed from the lake has been shifted, the rest remains there. I have instructed the officials to make arrangements for the disposal soon," the minister said.

**Lapse in recovering fine**

He pointed out that there was a lapse on the department's side in recovering the fine from over 400 industries in the catchment area of the lake. "The industries there have not built STPs and taking up *suo moto* case, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has penalised them up to ₹198 crores. However, only ₹5 crore has been collected from the department so far. The reason for this would be found out and strict action will be taken against those who have failed to recover the fines," Mr. Khandre said.

He also said that the rejuvenation of lakes is one of the prime focuses of the new government, "We have instructed the officials that all the lakes in Bengaluru which have polluted water should be examined, cleaned, desilted and rejuvenated. The lakes should be restored to their previous states where there used to be clean water."

**Strict action if STP not implemented**

Mr. Khandre, who also held a progress review meeting at Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) on Wednesday, said that cases had been registered against 78 local bodies over non-implementation of STPs. When asked about the confusion about the implementation of STPs in apartment complexes, he said, "In some old apartments, there is no provision for building STPs. However, in the future, if the new apartment complexes do not have STPs, then they would not be issued No Objection Certificates (NOC)."

Referring to the incident in Raichur district where a person died after ingesting polluted water, the minister issued strict warning that legal action would be taken against the supply of polluted water anywhere in the State. He also said that multiple steps will be taken to track and cut down on pollution especially in areas like e-waste recycling, used oil recycling, and disposal of hazardous waste.

# Boy feared to have drowned in lake

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

A high school student is feared to have drowned while he was swimming with two friends in Mylasansra lake in Electronics City on Tuesday. The deceased has been identified as Jishanth, 16, a resident of Bandepalya on Hosur Road.

According to the police, Jishanth and his friends Shashank and Harish ventured into the water to swim. He drowned since he did not know how to swim and his friends got scared and ran away. Meanwhile, the family went in search of the boy and found his clothes and cycle on the lake bed and alerted the police.

The police informed the Fire and Emergency Services personnel who rushed to the spot and searched for the body . The search operation was called off due to bad light and will continue on Thursday, a police officer said. The police are now trying to trace Shashank and Harish to ascertain the details of the incident.

# 10-month Balasevika training course

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

A certified 10-month Balasevika training course in Kannada for young women interested in working with women, children and community conducted by the Karnataka State Council for Child Welfare will commence from June 12.

Candidates between 17 and 35 years with an SSLC course can apply. Details can be obtained from the Karnataka State Council for Child Welfare, Balasevika Training Institute, 135, 3rd Cross, Nandidurga Road, Jayamahal Extension.

Call 080-22925898 or 23330846.

# *Traffic police get trained in a new skill: clearing broken branches, clogged drains*

Each traffic police station to get a set of diesel-powered pump, battery-operated saw, gardening equipment, iron rods to clear clogged drain, rope to pull away tree branches and tow vehicles

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

In addition to managing traffic, policemen in the city are being trained in new skill sets: clearing broken branches and clogged drains during rains as they worsen traffic.

As part of the project, each traffic police station will get a set of diesel-powered pump, battery-operated saw, gardening equipment, iron rods to clear clogged drain, and a rope to pull away tree branches and tow vehicles that have broken down.

The traffic police have been provided with a quick training session on how to use them in case of eventuality. A team of police personnel will monitor the situation and rush to the spot to clear the area for traffic movement. The idea is to clear the road and make it commutable until help comes from the civic body, a senior police officer said.

A traffic policeman clearing broken branches of a tree in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Apart from this, traffic personnel have been instructed to take precautionary measures and keep an eye on the movement of traffic, especially at underpasses and sensitive areas marked by the traffic police in and around the city . Many traffic personnel are already on the job and clearing hurdles found in their area of operations.

Suman D. Pennekar, DCP, traffic west, said that the project is for immediate response for any eventuality to keep the roads clear until further help arrives.

# Lokayukta raids at 53 locations across State

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

As part of the State-wide raids and search operations conducted on government officials, Lokayukta officials on Wednesday confiscated movable and immovable properties total worth ₹5.6 crore from H.J. Ramesh, chief engineer, Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) from four locations belonging to him.

The seized properties include a plot at Hitech Defense and Aerospace Park Industrial Area, Devanahalli, 0.75 acre of plot at Sompura 2nd stage, Dabaspete, and an under-construction house at BEML Layout, Basaveshwaranagar.

Apart from this, a two-wheeler and a four-wheeler, gold and silver articles, shares, whisky bottles and household articles value worth about ₹1.4 crore were seized.

Similarly, another team of officials raided properties at 10 locations belonging to T.V. Narayanappa, Deputy Director of Factories at Ramanagaram and recovered movable and immovable properties worth ₹2.5 crore.

Cash and other articles that were recovered during a raid by the Lokayukta on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The confiscated properties include a site at Hejjala in Judicial layout, three houses in Vijayanagar and K.R. Puram and 10 acres of agricultural land at Mulabagalu in Kolar district.

The other properties include two motorcycles, gold ornaments, silver articles and house hold articles, cash ₹17,000.

The other officials who have been raided are S.D. Rangaswamy, secretary, Kittaganahalli Gram Panchayat, Bengaluru district, Pramod Kumar N.G., Executive Engineer, BBMP, south division, Bommanahalli zone, N. Muthu, Chief Accounts officer, Mysore Urban Development Authority, Mysuru, J. Mahesh, Superintendent Engineer, Mysuru City Corporation, A. Nagesh, Assistant Engineer, Mysore Urban Development Authority, M.S. Shivashankara Murthy, Senior Sub Registrar, Nanjanagudu, Shankara Naik, junior engineer, RDPR, Shikaripura, Shivamogga district, K. Prashanth, Senior Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam, Uppar Tunga project, Shivamogga, B.R. Kumar, Labour officer, Manipal Udupi, A.M. Niranjan, Senior Geologist, Vikas Soudha, Bengaluru, Vagish Basavananda Shettar, Project Engineer, Nirmithi Kendra, Haveir Sub Division, Ranebennur, Jaranappa M. Chincholikar, Executive Engineer, KRIDL, Koppal, CN Murthy Executive Engineer, KIADB, Mysuru.

The value of the disproportionate assets of the above officials will be calculated after the completion of search operations, an official release, said.

**Timings**
**BENGALURU**

**THURSDAY, JUN. 01**
RISE 05:53 SET 18:42
RISE 16:09 SET 03:21

**FRIDAY, JUN. 02**
RISE 05:53 SET 18:43
RISE 17:04 SET 04:02

**SATURDAY, JUN. 03**
RISE 05:53 SET 18:43
RISE 18:04 SET 04:49

| Bengaluru Weather | max | min |
|---|---|---|
| Tumakuru | 35 | 27 |
| Mysuru | 34 | 21 |
| Bengaluru | 31 | 23 |

**Bengaluru Today**
**35°C** The weather will be little warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower is likely to occur.

**Bengaluru Tomorrow**
**32°C** Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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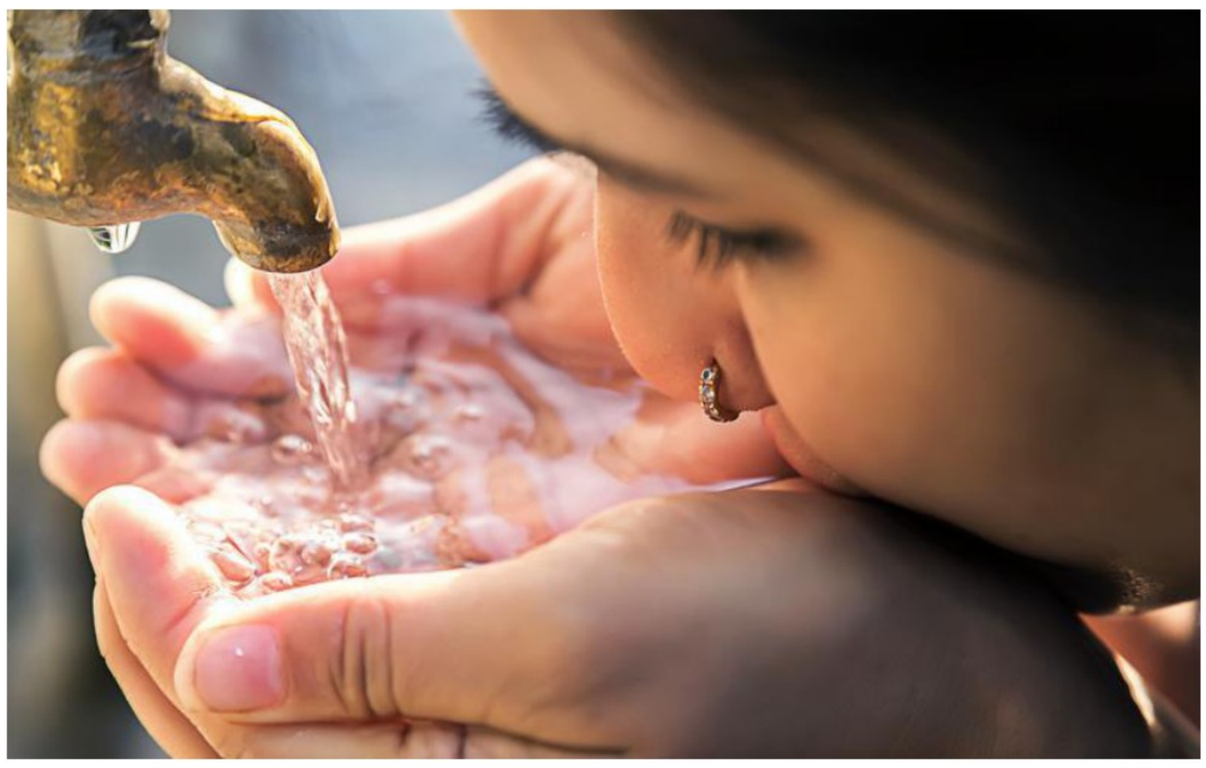
# Question mark on water quality as threat of contamination looms over Bengaluru

People suspecting contamination should first look out for any change in smell, indicating the presence of larvae in the tank, and immediately alert BWSSB, suggest experts

**Rasheed Kappan**
BENGALURU



Cauvery water goes through a treatment process before it enters the distribution network. REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO/GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

(Top) People collecting potable water in Bengaluru. (Above) Water shortage leads to many residents turning to takers. FILE PHOTO

Sweating it out in the scorching summer heat, compelled to judiciously use scarce water, Bengalureans are always under a looming threat: Drinking water contamination, which plays havoc with their lives every time sewage enters the system. Is there a quick way to spot the mixture, arrest the accelerating slide in water quality and minimise damage?

In localities across Bengaluru, contamination is a disturbing daily threat. Trenches dug up for sewage lines that cut through water lines, flooded sewage drains overflowing or intruding into leaky Cauvery lines, old, worn-out pipes long past their expiry date ... Inevitably, contamination drives a sudden spike in the maximum permissible Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and microbial mix in water.

**Sultanpalya incident**

Last week, this mixture had the entire Sultanpalya locality in a tizzy. Residents had to empty their sumps and storage tanks to flush out the stinking water.

One resident complained, "Returning from a trip, I found that my 2,000-litre sump was stinking. Unaware, my daughter consumed the water and fell sick for days. We had to rely on costly water tankers. There was no help from authorities."

Entry of water-contaminated-by-sewage can disrupt the entire supply system of a household.

"Larvae enter the tank, and entire lines will have to be cleaned. It can lead to all kinds of health complications. In fact, small amounts of sewage can contaminate entire neighbourhoods," says B. Nagappa, a former scientific officer attached to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB).

**How to check**

At the consumer level, early detection of contamination is critical. Water expert and Biome Environmental Solutions founder S. Vishwanath talks about a simple method to spot microbial contamination: The Residual Chlorine Test, where a few drops of a solution added to water in a handheld device changes the colour and indicates the level of residual chlorine.

Vishwanath explains, "Typical residual chlorine should be 2 parts per million. Then you don't have to fear anything. The results are immediate. Nowadays, you get chlorine tablets. One tablet dropped into 500 litres of water can disinfect it, or you use potassium permanganate for treatment."

The Hydrogen Sulphide ($H_2S$) Vial Test detects the presence of E. coli bacteria in water. "You put water into that vial, and observe for 24 hours. If it turns black, there is e-coli. So, you make sure you either boil or filter the water before you drink."

Nagappa suggests that people suspecting contamination should first look out for any change in smell, indicating the presence of larvae in the tank, and immediately alert BWSSB.

"Usually, the entire street gets affected. Excess chlorination kills the remaining bacteria. Leave it for six hours, and the smell will go away." To test bacteriological contamination, consumers will have to collect the sample manually and send it to laboratories. The contamination, if any, is confirmed only after incubating the sample for 24 hours.

**Water quality**

Increased temperatures also lead to bacterial growth, and algal blooms in water sources. Besides, as experts point out, water bodies made summer-ready by adding chemicals should be filtered the right way before consumption. Any dilution could endanger health due to a spike in chemicals, microorganisms and germs.

TDS, the total concentration of dissolved substances in drinking water, comprises Sodium, Magnesium, Calcium, Potassium, and a small amount of organic matter. TDS originates from natural sources, sewage, urban run-offs, industrial effluents, chemicals in the treatment process and chemical fertilisers. Elevated TDS levels lend the water a bitter, salty or brackish taste.

A recent study showed that in seven out of 10 areas tested in Bengaluru, the maximum TDS rate in the available water far exceeded the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) limit of 500 mg/litre.

In many localities of Marathahalli Colony, the maximum TDS stood at 1,130 mg/l in March 2023. The max TDS in pockets of HSR Layout was recorded as 780 mg/l, and a high of 933 mg/l in Bommanahalli. In Bommanahalli, even the average TDS was way above the limit at 613.14 mg/l.

The study, by DrinkPrime, also showed that the areas studied had high levels of water hardness in pockets. Water with less than 60 Parts Per Million (PPM) is considered soft, in the range of 60-120 PPM as moderately hard, and water with more than 120 PPM is categorised as hard. The average Total Hardness was as high as 400 PPM in Whitefield, 421.42 PPM in Bommanahalli, 412.33 PPM in Yelahanka, and 379.66 in HSR Layout.

Though designated for drinking, Cauvery water goes through an elaborate treatment process before it enters the distribution network of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

"There are pathogens everywhere because of litter decay, bird and animal excreta. Even if the quality is fit for drinking, you will have to treat it before use," says B. Nagappa, a former scientific officer attached to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB). Before it reaches Bengaluru homes, the water is treated in five stages.

Nagappa explains, "It is first treated with coagulants using seven-eight chemicals, stirred with Potash alum, Sodium alum ... Once the coagulants dissolve, floating particles settle in a settling tank. After sand filtration, the water is chlorinated to ensure it is free of bacteria. Only then is it distributed to the population."

Drinking water, the BIS mandates, should be free from microscopic organisms, like, algae, zooplankton, flagellates, parasites and toxin-producing organisms.

Youngsters at the Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign rally on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day, organised by the Karnataka No for Tobacco (KNOT) at Freedom Park on May 31. K. MURALI KUMAR

# UAS tells farmers what they can grow instead of tobacco

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

"We need food, not tobacco" was the theme of World No Tobacco Day observed on Wednesday (March 31) and perhaps no place better than the University of Agricultural Science (UAS), Bengaluru, to drive home the point.

The event was observed by the university in collaboration with the Consortium for Tobacco Free Karnataka. Tobacco growers from Belagavi, Nippani, Hunsur, and Piriyapatna participated in the event that debated about shifting to alternative crops.

The chief guest was Dr. Prathima Murthy, Director, NIMHANS, and the event was inaugurated by Dr. S.V Suresha, Vice-Chancellor, UAS, Bangalore. Also present at the event was noted Kannada film director and environmentalist, Mr. Suresh Heblikar.

In his keynote address, Heblikar spoke about the impact of tobacco on the environment, stressing the need to protect delicate ecosystems, while Dr. Murthy focused on the ill effects of tobacco on health and the economy. As a part of the session, the students of UAS also released a documentary around the topic of tobacco.

Dr. Suresha's talk, while also focusing on the ill effects of tobacco, lingered on the issues and challenges of alternative cropping systems for tobacco.

"Society is discouraging the use of tobacco for many health complications that you are already aware of," he said, pointing out that since tobacco products are legally approved, they cannot be taken out of the market. "The only alternative is to see that the supply is reduced," he said, implying it will negatively impact demand too. "It is an indirect way of discouraging people from using tobacco," he said.

World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that nearly 267 million Indian adults, a whopping 29% of the population, are tobacco users. "It leads not only to loss of lives but also has heavy social and economic costs," says the WHO website, highlighting that tobacco use increases the risk of many chronic diseases like cancer, lung disease, stroke and cardiovascular disease, accounting for nearly 1.35 million deaths every year.

**Matter of livelihood**

However, it is also an important cash crop, providing livelihood security to around 36 million people, according to the Central Tobacco Research Institute's website.

"There are many issues entangled in it," said Dr. Suresha, referring to the need to reduce tobacco cultivation, one needs to provide alternative options for tobacco growers, considering that tobacco fetches more money compared to other food grain products. It is an easily cultivable crop.

# *Dream Weaver: A visual journey into weaver birds' struggles*

S. Eshwar's book captures the birds' struggles in building nests, earning praise from wildlife photographers for its captivating portrayal of nature

**Swathi Nair**
BENGALURU

Weaver birds' nests in Madadkere, in Hosdurg. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

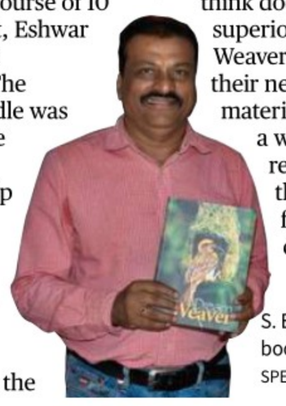
Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot recently unveiled senior photographer S. Eshwar's book titled *Dream Weaver* at Raj Bhavan. The book offers a captivating visual narrative of the everyday struggles faced by weaver birds in their quest to build the perfect nest. The book has been lauded by renowned wildlife photographers Krupakar Senani and S. Thippeswamy for their insightful depiction of nature and wildlife.

Eshwar's fascination with weaver birds blossomed unexpectedly during a visit to his native village of Madadkere in the Hosdurga taluk of Chitradurga district. Amidst the tranquil ambience of his farm, the melodies of chirping birds lured him towards a derelict well. There, he discovered around 50 weaver birds diligently crafting their nests, suspended from the branches of a nearby tree. Eshwar seized the opportunity to capture their intricate work and the daily ordeals they faced.

"I was very happy to see them and thought that why not take this opportunity and click some pictures on the way the birds were constructing their nests and their day-to-day activities and struggles in doing so," Eshwar explained.

Eshwar's upbringing in an agricultural family nurtured his passion for nature and wildlife photography. His lifelong affinity for the subject is what motivated him to seek out lesser-known species and their untold stories.

Over the course of 10 days of shoot, Eshwar faced several challenges. The primary hurdle was capturing the birds' craftsmanship without arousing their suspicion or disturbing the process. Additionally, the elusive nature of weaver birds necessitated keen observation and swift movements to track their daily routines. Eshwar also had to navigate the presence of farmers and villagers passing by, ensuring that his presence did not disrupt their daily lives. Reflecting on the life lessons he gained from the weaver birds, Eshwar mused, "All living beings strive hard for food, water, and shelter... Just because we have the ability to think doesn't make us superior to them. Weaver birds construct their nests using simple materials, showcasing a way of life that resonates with the current need for sustainable coexistence."



S. Eshwar with his book *Dream Weaver*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

**FIFTY YEARS AGO** JUNE 1, 1973

### Lion mauls girl circus artiste

BANGALORE, May 31: A girl artiste, while performing the popular lion-taming act inside a cage, was mauled badly during a show today at the circus now being staged at the Subhas Nagar grounds here.

The incident occurred during the first show of the New Grand Circus on the inaugural day when one of the three lions in the cage suddenly turned wild. The animal gripped the girl firmly between its jaws and only after about five minutes, the lion relaxed its hold and the girl was removed to hospital immediately. The girl's condition is reported to be serious.

### MLCs' concern over kerosene supply

BANGALORE, May 31: Several members from all sides in the Mysore Legislative Council today expressed serious concern over the hardship caused to people all over the State on account of the acute scarcity of kerosene.

The members who were highly critical of the Government for the unsatisfactory manner in which it had been distributing kerosene wanted to know the steps taken by the Government for its fair distribution. They wanted the Government to notify the people in their respective areas the arrangements made by the Government to ensure fair and equitable distribution of kerosene.

The Minister for State for Food and Civil supplies, Mrs. Vas said in her reply that there was no need for any apprehension as the State would get an increased quota of kerosene from June 15.

### Legislators to join Congress

BANGALORE, May 31: The Executive of the Mysore PCC decided here today to recommend to the AICC the admission of five legislators into the Legislature Congress Party.

The five are Messrs Chowda Reddy, MLA, (Chintamani) Bachi Reddy, MLA (Congress-O) (Srinivaspur), G. Made Gowda, MLA, (Kirugavalu), and M.V. Venkatappa, MLA (Malavalli) and Srimathi Neelamma Shivananjappa, MLC.

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J BG-BGE

# ‘We have given 5 guarantees and carrying them out is guaranteed’

Government will discuss their implementation in the Cabinet meeting tomorrow, says Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at a meeting with Ministers at the conference hall of the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Amidst pressure from the Opposition to implement the five pre-poll ‘guarantees’ given by the Congress, the State government will discuss the implementation of ‘guarantees’ during the Cabinet meeting on Friday.

“The government has decided to implement all five guarantees given to the people and discussions will be held regarding the same in the Cabinet meeting to be held on Friday,” Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told reporters here on Wednesday after briefing by the Finance department officials to the council of Ministers. “The department has given a detailed presentation on the economic implication. We have given five guarantees and carrying them out is guaranteed,” he said.

**Another meeting**

While the government sources indicated that there is likely another round of meeting of Finance officials on Thursday, the Cabinet meeting that is normally held on Thursday was also postponed to Friday to give time for Ministers to come back with their opinion to the Cabinet. Various permutations and combinations have been presented to the Ministers, sources said. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar told reporters that while the government is committed to implement the guarantees, the officials have aired their opinions and provided suggestions on its implementation. “Our priority is to implement the guarantees. Finance Department has provided options and we will discuss them in the Cabinet,” he said.

Stating that the Congress government will not succumb to the pressure of the Opposition, he said that more than the conditions to be laid down in implementing, the guarantees have to be implemented in an orderly manner.

A senior Cabinet Minister told *The Hindu* that a detailed note will be given before the Cabinet meeting with options and financial implications based on which the decision will be taken. “The cost involved will depend on the way in which the guarantees will be implemented. All guarantees could be implemented together and the current discussion on cost of implementation is about ₹ 50,000 crore annually.”

Another senior Minister said that various permutation and combination of implementing the guarantees were presented. “This was the second round of discussion on the implementation of guarantees. The final discussion will be held on Friday before a decision is made.”

## Priyank gets IT; M.B. Patil infra development

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday reallocated portfolios of his Cabinet colleagues by allocating Infrastructure Development to Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil and the portfolio of IT and BT has been given to Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge. Both departments were under the Chief Minister.

# Many questions to be resolved, data to be compiled over ‘guarantees’

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Amidst a jugglery of numbers to align the cost involved in implementation of the five pre-poll “guarantees” of the Congress in Karnataka, questions have been raised as to when and how these would be implemented.

While Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said that the Cabinet would discuss the guarantees and take a decision, multiple government sources indicated that the implementation could take more time as contours of the schemes are yet to be defined. The eligibility criteria for identifying the beneficiaries and definition of beneficiaries are yet to be agreed upon, and this is a Herculean task, sources said, adding that the total outgo for these guarantees could be between ₹55,000 crore and ₹60,000 crore.

“The Cabinet has to answer as to when the implementation would take place. Whether it would be before the Budget is presented or would they be aligned with budgetary provisions has to be pondered over,” government sources indicated. Interestingly, preparations for a full-fledged Budget, the 14th to be presented by Mr. Siddaramaiah, is yet to begin.

**The eligibility criteria for identifying beneficiaries and definition of beneficiaries have to be sorted out**

The eligibility to receive ₹2,000 under Gruha Lakshmi is among those being fiercely debated. “Should the scheme be restricted to BPL families or extended to all women? If the head of the family is already receiving old age pension or widow pension will she be eligible for the dole? Who in the family has to be identified as the beneficiary? How is the beneficiary identified in a joint family but holding separate BPL cards? These are key questions,” said a senior Minister.

**Some have no parallels**

The implementation of the Gruha Lakshmi and unemployment scheme is also expected to pose certain challenges to the government as they do not seem to have parallels from where the government can draw experience.

“To an extent, the experience of providing free power in Delhi and Punjab by AAP government is a template and some States have provided free bus travel for women. But there are not many parallels for Gruha Lakshmi and unemployment scheme,” government sources pointed out. “There is no data readily available on women travellers. While public employment figures are available, the figures for private employment is not available.”

Multiple options are also being discussed for implementing 200 units free power. “Should only the BPL families get it or should it be extended to all? How will a tenant derive benefit since the meter will be in the name of the land lord are also questions,” sources said.

There are also indications about closing down non-performing schemes in many departments to rationalise funding for the guarantees. A senior Minister indicated that cost cutting could be a default option if the dole out is made while keeping the economy healthy. “Expenditures will have to be trimmed as the State’s economy has been affected due to GST and Covid-19 pandemic,” the Minister said. However, these cut downs of schemes are likely to come around the time of Budget preparation, and may not be taken up immediately.

On Wednesday, the Finance officials provided the Council of Ministers multiple permutations and combinations to implement the scheme.

# Setting up of Dharwad and Kalaburagi Benches created awareness in NK residents: HC

Cases pending at Dharwad and Kalaburagi Benches of HC

| | DHARWAD BENCH | | | KALABURAGI BENCH | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Civil | Criminal | Total | Civil | Criminal | Total |
| 2008 | 18,401 | 2,365 | 20,766 | 7,301 | 862 | 8,163 |
| 2009 | 34,417 | 3,089 | 37,506 | 13,696 | 963 | 14,659 |
| 2010 | 48,566 | 3,848 | 52,414 | 16,538 | 1,177 | 17,715 |
| 2011 | 37,096 | 1,794 | 38,890 | 12,785 | 1,244 | 14,029 |
| 2012 | 40,374 | 2,088 | 42,462 | 15,742 | 1,040 | 16,782 |
| 2013 | 38,076 | 2,020 | 40,096 | 15,653 | 968 | 16,621 |
| 2014 | 41,648 | 2,712 | 44,360 | 17,032 | 1,315 | 18,347 |
| 2015 | 44,231 | 3,446 | 47,677 | 20,254 | 1,299 | 21,553 |
| 2016 | 52,755 | 3,424 | 56,179 | 22,883 | 1,477 | 24,360 |
| 2017 | 59,700 | 4,384 | 64,084 | 27,608 | 1,736 | 29,344 |
| 2018 | 66,333 | 5,222 | 71,555 | 30,477 | 1,687 | 32,164 |
| 2019 | 72,876 | 6,188 | 79,064 | 30,343 | 2,068 | 32,411 |
| 2020 | 53,056 | 6,021 | 59,077 | 20,814 | 2,198 | 23,012 |
| 2021 | 48,919 | 6,233 | 55,152 | 21,158 | 1,675 | 22,833 |
| 2022 | 52,190 | 6,567 | 58,757 | 22,908 | 1,844 | 24,752 |
| 2023* | 51,946 | 6,640 | 58,586 | 23,898 | 1,708 | 25,606 |

*Up to February 28 Source: High Court’s judgment WP-21879/2014

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The establishment of two Benches of the High Court of Karnataka at Dharwad and Kalaburagi has created awareness of legal rights amongst the people of North Karnataka and led to an increase in number of both civil and criminal cases instituted every year since establishment of the two Benches in 2008, the court said.

“The establishment of Benches at Dharwad and Kalaburagi should not be construed as an investment for returns at all, but should only be taken as “*Pro Bono Publico [*for public good] measure. In fact lakhs of people are benefited by the establishment of the Benches at Dharwad and Kalaburagi and the people of North Karnataka are happy as the court is established at their doorsteps and as a result, the litigants need not travel long distances spending huge expenses,” the court observed.

A Division Bench comprising Justice B. Veerappa and Justice K.S. Hemalekha made these observations while rejecting a PIL petition filed in 2014 by city-based advocate Amruthesh N.P. The petitioner had questioned the legality of establishment of circuit Benches at Dharwad and Kalaburagi in 2008 and later making them permanent Benches in 2014. The petitioner had also sought a direction for conducting performance audit, including financial audit regarding investment, expenditure and functional viability of the two Benches.

“As the High Court came to their doorsteps, the awareness of legal rights has increased among the residents of North Karnataka and accordingly, the litigants approached the court with great expectation for speedy and qualitative justice,” the Bench observed. “The petitioner had filed the petition against the “will of public at large,” especially against the residents of northern Karnataka as the petitioner is the resident of Bengaluru. Without knowing the topography, problems faced by the public at large the present writ petition is filed for his personal glory and gain,” said Justice Veerappa, who authored the judgment.

The Bench, from the official data, pointed out that during the inception of circuit Benches in 2008, there were 20,766 cases (18,401 civil and 2,365 criminal cases) pending in the Dharwad Bench and 8,163 cases (7,301 civil cases and 862 criminal cases) in the Kalaburagi Bench.

However, as on February 28, 2023, there were 58,586 cases (51,946 civil and 6,640 criminal cases) pending in Dharwad Bench and 25,606 cases (23,898 civil and 1,708 criminal) in the Kalaburagi Bench, and this data indicates sharp rise in filling of cases before these two Benches, the Bench pointed out.

# Free bus travel scheme for women requires financial support from govt., extra buses: Report

**Darshan Devaiah B.P.**
BENGALURU

As the State government is getting set to introduce free travel for women in ordinary buses, in the review meeting held on Wednesday, State Road Transport Corporation (RTC) officials submitted a report on implementing the scheme to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, indicating that it can be implemented with not only additional financial help of State government but also increased staff and fleet.

“According to the report, the RTCs have to spend ₹4,220 crore annually to implement the scheme,” said the officials. The four RTCs have to also induct 4,028 new buses and recruit 13,793 crew if the scheme is implemented, said the report.

“The scheme needs more funding from the government since at least 50% of the passengers travelling on the RTCs are women. All the ticketing revenue from the women passengers will be lost to the scheme, hence the officials from the RTCs have requested to give additional funds,” senior KSRTC officials told *The Hindu*.

RTCs have to also increase the bus fleet and staff to successfully implement the scheme, said officials. “Since the daily ridership may increase by at least 10% after the scheme is implemented, the bus fleet and staff have to be increased to give good service,” the official said.

Minister for Transport Ramalinga Reddy said that the officials from four RTC’s have given their report on the scheme where four types of options have been given to the government. “Our officials have submitted various options and also the cost estimations to the Chief Minister and the Cabinet on Friday will decide which option will be suitable to implement the scheme. There will be no loss to the corporations since the government will reimburse the cost spent on the women’s free ride scheme,” Mr. Reddy told *The Hindu*.

On increasing the fleet of buses and recruiting more crew, Mr. Reddy said that already RTC has decided to procure 4,249 new buses in this financial year.

# BJP to hold month-long campaign in June to mark 9th anniversary of Modi govt.

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP is set to take up a month-long campaign from June 1 in the State to mark the 9th anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government. The saffron party is trying to use the campaign to begin its preparations for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kateel held a meeting with a few chosen MPs to discuss ways of holding the campaign.

**Door-to-door campaign**

The campaign, which will be taken up in all the Lok Sabha constituencies of the State, will involve various activities including door-to-door visits by the party workers to create awareness about the achievements of the Modi government, according to Union Minister Bhagwanth Khuba.

The party would also hold separate meetings of beneficiaries of various central schemes in each Lok Sabha constituency. Meetings of intellectuals and businesspersons would also be conducted. The party would organise yoga day in each Lok Sabha constituency.

He said the party organisation would take up this campaign with an eye on preparations for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. They would also create awareness among the alleged failures of the two successive UPA governments, he said.

Sources in the BJP said the party organisation was keen to use the occasion to galvanise the party cadre and to boost its morale that has been low after the defeat in the Assembly polls.

Stating that they are waiting for the new Congress government in the State to take an official decision on the nature of implementation of its major poll guarantees, sources in the BJP said the party would also focus on the guarantees during its campaign. “Depending on the government’s decision, we will also focus on the failure to reach guarantees to all the people if there are any conditions for the implementation of guarantees,” a party senior leader said.

“We have decided to keep aside our own organisational issues of appointing a new State president and legislature party leader for some time now so that we can focus mainly on the failure to effectively implement poll guarantees,” a BJP State leader said.

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**Advocates**
“Daisville”, 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038
Place: Bengaluru Date: 31.05.2023

# City flavour

Among Bengaluru's popular homegrown bands, TAAQ talks about its journey, hardships during the pandemic, how it found its feet post lockdown, upcoming album, and more

**Ruth Dhanaraj**
**ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in**

Having opened for Jason Derulo at a sporting event in the city a few months ago, Thermal and a Quarter (TAAQ) reflects on Bengaluru's spirit of inclusivity and how it became a hallmark of their music. As a local band performing in English, with 'guitars' no less, TAAQ has faced its fair share of brickbats – along with bouquets – over the years.

Post the lockdown, the band was finding its feet like everyone else. "The pandemic changed so many things. We were unable to meet regularly – something we did every day – catch up in the studio and put down ideas for our music," says Bruce Lee Mani, guitarist, singer-songwriter and founder of the band.

All that pent-up creativity resulted in the single 'What World?', released in October 2022. "What World?' was a celebration of leaving the pandemic behind; it was also a rumination on what kind of world we were making for ourselves. 'What you wanted, was what the world would be,' was the theme of that song," says Bruce.

"It was heartbreaking that just as the pandemic was getting over, the war in Ukraine started and people started killing each other again," adds Rajeev Rajagopal, TAAQ drummer and co-founder.

Still, this year has been productive for the band; it will be releasing a new album in the next few months.

"Every album is a reflection of what was going on with us and in this one, we're exploring stuff we've never done before. It is a more evolved sound that we're putting together. Since you get complacent if you fall back on what comes naturally to you, we've taken a conscious decision to go into territory we usually wouldn't try," says Rajeev.

"As a drummer, I used to play keeping the song in mind, but this album is different from any of the drumming I've done so far. Even in terms of lyrics and song structure, we haven't followed the regular verse-chorus format. Some of it is free speech and we're excited about our sound."

The upcoming album will be the band's ninth in 26 years.

**Then and now**

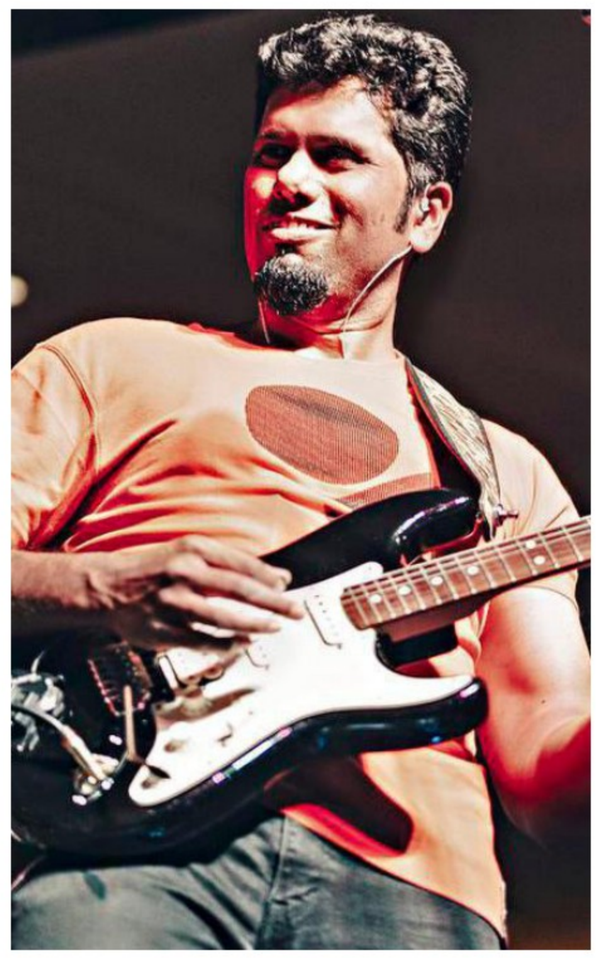
"We've been around since 1996, from the pre-internet era when we would use Reynold pens to rewind cassettes; that's how we got into music," laughs Rajeev.

At a time when most bands stuck with popular covers, TAAQ tapped into the city's culture of great music and wrote original numbers.

"We sang about the city – Brigade Road, rickshaw rides and street food. Yet, polarising elements saw us as aping the West for not singing in Kannada. They didn't realise we loved this city and this nation; we were taking its stories and its vibe in a language that people the world over could understand and appreciate," says Rajeev.

"Bangalore is a melting pot of cultures, languages and religions – it's a true Metro. Whenever we perform abroad, Bangalore Rock – that's what we call our music – sends out a message of contemporary India. Inclusivity is the message of our music too."

"Bangalore has always welcomed every form of migrant – from the electronics industry boom to the IT sector and everything else in between. That has been the city's USP and that is what Bangalore Rock is all about. We are a product of the city's inclusivity and we love it for giving us this opportunity."



**One love:** Members of Thermal And A Quarter (from left) drummer Rajeev Rajagopal, bassist Leslie Charles, lead guitarist and vocalist Bruce Lee Mani and (below) guitarist Tony Das SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Well, TAAQ should know. Their name Thermal and a Quarter, is a reference to the bandmates comprising 'three mals (Malayalees) and a quarter,' with the one-fourth being a nod to Bruce's diluted Malayalee connection.

Like their city, the all-inclusive nature of the band extends to its performances too. "It's great to have gigs and we play everywhere, irrespective of the venue or its size. There's no such thing as having made it too big. We'll play in a stadium or a pub as long as we get to play," says Bruce, adding, "This is life as we know it and it's amazing to have been able to do this for so long on our own terms."

Recalling their recent gig, Rajeev draws parallels between the unifying force of music and sport. "With any sport, fans drop their differences and adopt its language. Similarly, if two people listen to the same music, they are no longer strangers. Again, inclusivity is the key."

TAAQ certainly champions inclusivity whether they write songs about it or ask prominent flute players and amateur guitar players to join them during their performances.

"Since we perform in English, foreign audiences understand we are singing about life in India. They listen to the lyrics and find them exotic because of our accents. We don't put on an American accent; it's a very Bangalore accent and they absolutely love it," he says.

*For more information on upcoming shows, check out the band's social media handles.*

**Theatrical tapestry:** A still from 'I Am Just Like You, I Love Apples' SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# German arts extravaganza

**The Hindu Bureau**

Goethe Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan Bengaluru will host 'Travelling on Atypical Orbits', a mini film festival, on June 4. In collaboration with the 18th Berlinale Forum Expanded, which is a section of the Berlin International Film Festival, this event is curated and organised by Arsenal - Institute for Film and Video Art, Berlin.

Presented and moderated by Shai Heredia, a member of the Forum Expanded curatorial team, 'Travelling on Atypical Orbits' will showcase six films that delve into individual and collective historical trajectories. Heredia has curated film programs worldwide and has been recognized for her own films, including *I Am Micro* (2012) and *An Old Dog's Diary* (2015).

The films employ various cinematic techniques, ranging from essayistic footage collages to documentary investigations and absurdist narratives. The filmmakers behind these works seek to access forgotten or lingering memories of families, societies, and institutions, unearthing compelling narratives and forging connections across time and space.

The Berlinale Forum Expanded, established in 2006 and now in its 18th year, showcases exhibitions, film programs, performances, and discursive events that encompass a wide range of cinematic practices.

Meanwhile, the eighth edition of German Spotlight returns on June 3. It is an event curated by Sandbox Collective dedicated to promoting contemporary German drama in translation. This year, the spotlight shines on playwright Theresia Walser, with dramatised readings of her plays.

The inaugural reading, *I am just like you, I love apples*, is directed by Rency Philip. The play delves into the lives of three wives of notorious despots, offering a glimpse into their relationships with dictators and their controversial deeds.

Rency, a Bengaluru-based theatre-maker known for her innovative approach to puppetry and physical comedy, brings her expertise to the production. As a scenographer and performer, she aims to capture the essence of Theresia's work within the condensed script, juxtapositioning war crimes and witty wordplay.

*The event on June 3 will start at 6.30 pm and at 4 pm on June 4. Both events are open to the public with free entry. For more information, visit goethe.de/bangalore or check out their social media channels.*

# Clean closet, green Earth

**Preeti Zachariah**
**preeti.zachariah@thehindu.co.in**

"We want to give shoppers a firsthand experience of second-hand shopping," says Mridula Pai, who is organising Bangalore Closet Cleanse, a thrift market that will be held at Lahe Lahe in Indiranagar on June 4. Pai, the founder of the Kolkata-based Love Me Twice and Mono, talks about the format of the event.

"It is for independent sellers who have recently cleaned up their closet," she says, adding that people will bring their personal pieces to sell at the thrift market.

While she conducted an event in a similar format in Kolkata, this is the first time she has brought the closet cleanse to Bengaluru. "I want to build this (thrift) community in the city," she says.

Pai talks about the genesis of her own thrifting journey, which goes back to 2019 when she co-founded Mono Calcutta with writer and model Karuna Ezara Parikh. In the boutique, which was dedicated to sustainable labels from across India, they also introduced a rack of thrift.

"We were a boutique for sustainable labels, and there is nothing more sustainable than shopping second-hand," she says. The rack became a huge success, with different people coming to shop off it. "This rack of thrift was just selling out," she recalls. "We felt we were kind of breaking some barriers."

Then COVID-19 struck and the boutique had to close for a year. Pai, who was back home in Bengaluru back then, remembers sifting through her own closet, trying to declutter it when it struck her that she "wanted to do more than one rack."

When they reopened the store, half of it was dedicated to thrift, says Pai, adding that while Parikh no longer works for the brand due to professional commitments, she continues to support it.

Today, in the 100-year-old bungalow where Mono is situated, sustainable outfits from WhySoBlue, No Nasties and The Summer House share space with thrifted garments that could be a mix of both fast fashion and sustainable brands.

**Shop 'n' stop:** Mridula Pai and Karuna Ezara Parikh (below) promote responsible fashion SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"We would rather a Zara outfit gets resold, than end up in a landfill," says Pai, reiterating what most people in the fashion business already know; fast fashion is the second most polluting industry in the world.

Climate change, she adds, is a very real problem, the effects of which are being felt by nearly everyone.

"The fashion industry needs to be mindful of their contribution to this crisis," she says. There are changes that the industry, as a whole, needs to adopt, to reduce emissions. "Today it is so easy to buy 10 things and return nine. Even if you stop returns, it will make a difference," she says, since customers will become more mindful and only buy what they really want. Thrifting, of course, pushes the sustainability envelope as far as fashion is concerned. "The more you prolong the life of a garment, the better it is for the earth," she says. This is not to say that shopping at a thrift store needs to be an unpleasant experience.

**Mridula Pai, who is organising Bangalore Closet Cleanse, talks about the advantages of thrifting**

"We personally curate all the pieces which are checked, cleaned and hand-picked," she says, adding that the brand also pays a nominal price for the garments they buy. "We want to make this a viable business – to grow, expand and normalise thrifting," she says. "I want to take this to different cities."

*The Bangalore Closet Cleanse by Love Me Twice will be held on June 4 between 12 noon and 8 pm at Lahe, Lahe, 80 Feet Road. To know more about thrifting, log into lovemetwice.in.*

## CITYBEATS

### An evening with a DJ

**Friday, June 2, 10.30pm onwards**

DJ Shane Pereira will perform at Tiger Tiger Brewhouse.

A self-trained DJ, he began by doing gigs for friends and on the commercial DJ circuit in India. Shane says he has always been passionate about music.

Cover charges are priced at ₹1,500 for couples and ₹1,000 for stags while ladies can walk in free.

*Tiger Brewhouse, on Sarjapur-Marathahalli Road, can be contacted on 6364651167.*

### Get into the beat

**Sunday, June 4, 5pm**

Get ready for a rhythmic evening with Bangalore Drums Collective (BDC), at Bangalore Creative Circus, Yeshwantpur Industrial Suburb. You can take your djembes, cajons, shakers or just clap and dance to the rhythms.

*Tickets, ₹100, on https://linktr.ee/blrcreativecircus*

### Play with textures

**Saturday, June3, 5pm**

Attend an art workshop by The Leo Studio and experience Texture art. You can also take your handiwork home. Fee is ₹1,500 per person and register on BookMyShow.

*At Atta Galatta, Indiranagar.*

## INBRIEF

### TTD temple in Jammu to be open for darshan from June 8

Elaborate arrangements are under way for the conclusion of the temple consecration ceremony rituals of the new Lord Venkateswara temple at Majeen village in Jammu on June 8. The temple will be open for darshan after the event. Built by the TTD, the temple is located on the highway leading to the famous Mata Vaishno Devi temple.

### Families of house surgeon and fire-fighter to get ex gratia

The Kerala Cabinet on Wednesday sanctioned ₹25 lakh to the parents of house surgeon Vandana Das, who was fatally stabbed while on night duty at the Kottarakara taluk hospital, as an ex gratia payment. It extended a similar amount to the family of Fire and Rescue Department Officer J.S. Renjth, who was killed in the line of duty while dousing a chemical fire at the warehouse of the Kerala State Medical Services Corporation in Thiruvananthapuram mid-May.

### Verdict on attachment of Naidu's residence on June 2

The ACB court in Vijayawada will pronounce its judgment on the CID's plea for attachment of the guest house in which TDP president N. Chandrababu Naidu has been staying since bifurcation, on June 2. The judge reserved the verdict after hearing both parties on Wednesday. It may be noted that the CID issued a notice for attaching the property in accordance with the provisions of Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance of 1944 on the ground that the guest house was reportedly given to Mr. Naidu in alleged exchange for benefits that were given to its owner in the alignment of capital city designs.

# NIA carries out searches in Karnataka, Kerala, Bihar

This is in connection with the investigation into alleged conspiracy of Popular Front of India activists in radicalising and training cadre for carrying out acts of terror

**The Hindu Bureau**
MANGALURU

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday raided 25 locations, including in Dakshina Kannada and Shivamogga districts, in connection with the investigation into alleged conspiracy of Popular Front of India (PFI) activists in radicalising and training cadre for carrying out acts of terror.

A file photo of security personnel keeping vigil outside the Popular Front of India party office in Bengaluru. PTI

The searches in Dakshina Kannada was carried out in Bantwal, Uppinangady, Venur, and Belthangady. The search started around 4.30 a.m. and it went on till late in the evening. Local police provided necessary support to the NIA sleuths. According to a press release by NIA, the search was carried out in a total of 25 locations spread out in Bihar, Karnataka, and Kerala. Apart from Dakshina Kannada and Shivamogga districts, raid was conducted in places of suspects in Katihar district of Bihar; and in Kasaragod, Malappuram, Kozhikode, and Thiruvananthapuram districts of Kerala. A slew of digital devices, including mobile phones, hard disk, SIM cards, pendrives, and data cards, were seized. The sleuths also seized incriminating documents and materials related to the banned organisation. Indian currency of ₹17,50,100 was also seized. On July 11 2022, Bihar police raided the rented premises of Athar Parvez and seized incriminating articles related to PFI, including a document titled "India 2047 Towards Rule of Islamic India, Internal Document: Not for circulation". Athar Parvej was arrested, along with three others - Mohammed Jalaluddin Khan, Arman Malick, and Nooruddin Zangi. NIA filed chargesheet against the four persons on January 7, 2023. Ten others were arrested for promoting unlawful and anti-national activities of PFI and channelising illegal funds from abroad to PFI members.

# T.N. reiterates opposition to Karnataka's proposal for a dam at Mekedatu

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

A day after Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and Irrigation Minister D.K. Shivakumar reportedly said his State was keen on building a dam across the Cauvery at Mekedatu, Tamil Nadu Minister for Water Resources Duraimurugan on Wednesday reiterated that Tamil Nadu would oppose the proposal at all levels.

In a statement, Mr. Duraimurugan said the proposal for a dam at Mekedatu, in the uncontrolled intermediate catchment, "would affect Tamil Nadu" and was "not welcome". Expressing confidence that he would be able to meet the Karnataka Minister soon, he said the issue could be discussed in detail at the meeting. He hoped Mr. Shivakumar would be patient till then.

Mr. Duraimurugan said he was surprised that Mr. Shivakumar chose to ruffle Tamil Nadu's feathers days after he was sworn in as a Minister.

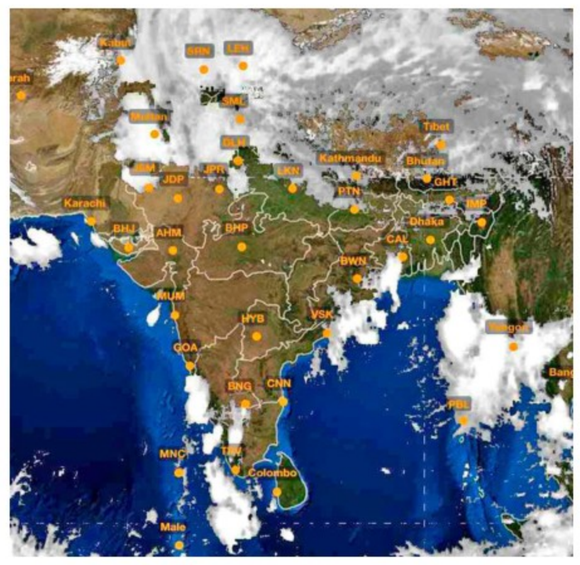
He said officials may not have given the new Minister complete information on the proposal.

His remarks came in response to media reports on Mr. Shivakumar's statement that Karnataka was keen on a dam at Mekedatu and ₹1,000 crore had been allocated for the project.

AMMK founder T.T.V. Dhinakaran demanded that the DMK government take legal steps against Karnataka's proposal. Stating that Mr. Duraimurugan's condemnation of Karnataka's plan was not enough, he sought the Chief Minister's intervention.

## WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday




TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Thursday:** Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, Assam, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Mahe, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agartala | — | 38.2 | 27.2 | Kozhikode | — | 36.4 | 27.5 |
| Ahmedabad | — | 41.0 | 25.5 | Kurnool | — | 40.6 | 27.4 |
| Aizawl | — | 37.0 | 22.4 | Lucknow | — | 37.6 | 25.4 |
| Allahabad | — | 41.2 | 27.4 | Madurai | 1 | 38.2 | 25.1 |
| Bengaluru | 65.2 | 31.3 | 19.6 | Mangaluru | — | 35.3 | 27.0 |
| Bhopal | 0.8 | — | 21.0 | Mumbai | — | 35.3 | 27.8 |
| Bhubaneswar | — | 39.2 | 24.8 | Mysuru | — | 35.0 | 23.0 |
| Chandigarh | 13 | 25.9 | 21.8 | New Delhi | 23 | 31.8 | 20.5 |
| Chennai | — | 38.8 | 26.4 | Patna | — | 41.8 | 29.4 |
| Coimbatore | — | 35.2 | 25.4 | Port Blair | 11 | 32.6 | 24.4 |
| Dehradun | 26.1 | 26.2 | 21.6 | Puducherry | — | 38.2 | 27.2 |
| Gangtok | — | 26.1 | 18.0 | Pune | — | 40.4 | 23.7 |
| Goa | — | 35.4 | 26.2 | Raipur | — | 42.4 | 28.5 |
| Guwahati | — | 37.4 | 24.5 | Ranchi | — | 36.6 | 27.2 |
| Hubballi | — | 36.0 | 25.0 | Shillong | — | 27.6 | 17.7 |
| Hyderabad | — | 38.9 | 25.4 | Shimla | 0.3 | 15.6 | 13.5 |
| Imphal | — | 35.5 | 21.7 | Srinagar | 6 | 15.3 | 11.6 |
| Jaipur | — | 32.1 | 21.3 | Thiruvananthapuram | — | 33.8 | 26.6 |
| Kochi | — | 32.6 | 26.2 | Tiruchi | 24 | 37.5 | 23.4 |
| Kohima | — | 28.8 | 18.5 | Vijayawada | 29 | 38.4 | 25.0 |
| Kolkata | — | 38.2 | 29.2 | Visakhapatnam | — | 33.3 | 28.2 |

*(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)*

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

| CITIES | $SO_2$ | $NO_2$ | CO | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | .38 | 142 | .81 | 160 | 200 | |
| Bengaluru | .26 | 11 | 100 | 53 | 66 | |
| Chennai | 3 | 93 | 108 | 106 | 83 | |
| Delhi | .18 | 152 | .— | 79 | 120 | |
| Hyderabad | .24 | 43 | .94 | 97 | 133 | |
| Kolkata | .31 | 17 | .26 | 67 | 75 | |
| Lucknow | .10 | 22 | .40 | 82 | 109 | |
| Mumbai | .29 | 29 | .48 | 104 | 90 | |
| Pune | 115 | 171 | 116 | 90 | 78 | |
| Visakhapatnam | .18 | 54 | .38 | 97 | 146 | |

**Air Quality Code:** Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**Yesterday**

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Chhapra, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 228 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

**$SO_2$:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**$NO_2$:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

## *First day of school*

Students and teachers at the Government Kannada Model Primary School at Ganganagar in Bengaluru on the first day of the new academic year on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

# No hurry to scrap NEP in higher education sector: M.C. Sudhakar

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

"Our government is not in a hurry to scrap the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) in the higher education sector. We will examine the policy and submit the report to the Chief Minister, then will take an appropriate decision," said M.C. Sudhakar, Minister for Higher Education. The minister was speaking to the media at the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) on Wednesday. The Congress had promised in its Assembly election manifesto that it will scrap NEP.

> Karnataka will have its own education policy. There will be no Nagpur Education Policy. We will discuss it in length and breadth.
>
> **D.K. SHIVAKUMAR**
> Deputy Chief Minister

"Our party main concern is more about the saffronisation of education at the primary and secondary level by the BJP government. Our government has made itself very clear on its stand on issues like textbook revision. These issues like syllabus revision do not pertain to higher education," he clarified.

"The NEP brought many changes in the higher education sector, like flexibility in choosing subjects, assessment patterns and teaching methodology. These are good initiatives. But, in order to please the Centre, the previous government rushed to implement it. It requires a lot of preparation infrastructure-wise. The teachers should know what NEP is. Therefore, we need to examine the changes made and how the previous government implemented it. Once we study it, we will discuss with the Chief Minister," he said. The minister interacted with students who were present at the KEA office and who faced issues after making mistakes in the form. The minister also said, "KEA will train students on filling application forms for CET at the PUC level. Though there was a similar proposal last year, it was not implemented."

"I was interacting with students and saw some students and parents struggling to fill out the form. To address this, we need to educate them at the college level. We will have a meeting with the Department of School Education and Literacy on this," he added.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

That my client Mr. T.S. ANIL KUMAR and others have lost the original Deed of Sale dated: 06-09-2006, vide document No.15329/2006-07, stored in CD No.BASD271, and Rectification Deed, vide document No.20667/2006-07, dated:06-09-2006, registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk in respect of the schedule Property in transit (while shifting residence) on 28-04-2023 and they had already lodged the complaint before the concerned Police Station authorities vide Lost report No.0579501/ 2023 dated: 29-05-2023 and so far they have not received the same from the public.

That my clients also requested the public that if anybody trace the said documents, please hand over the same to them or to their said Advocate within 07 days' time from the date of Public Notice and any person/s who handover the said Sale Deed and Rectification Deed to my clients or advocate will be suitably rewarded.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

Property measuring 16,497 square feet in Converted Sy.No.92/1B, situated at Konappana Agrahara Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on the:

**East by:** Remaining Portion of same sy.no.92/1B
**West by** :Property of M/s. Madhavanarayan Estates
**North by:** Common Passage and 100 feet KIADB Road
**Sout by** :Property of M/s. HP Invent

Sd/- **A.Manjunath** Advocate
No.924, 28th Main, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560 069.
Ph: 9845395528

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform to all the General Public that my clients had executed a registered General Power of Attorney dated 21-3-1997, registered as Document. No. 3131/1996-97, Book-IV, Volume 17, Pages 187 to 191, in the office of the Sub- Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk in respect of the schedule property in favour of Sri. C.S. Purushotham, son of late C.V. Srinivas Rao, No.51, Upstairs, 11th B Main, Hanumanthanagar, Bangalore - 560019.

Hence in order to protect my clients' right, title and interest over the schedule property, my clients have this day cancelled/revoked the General Power of Attorney dated 21-3-1997, registered as Document. No. 3131/1996-97, Book-IV, Volume 17, Pages 187 to 191, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk in favour of Sri. C.S. Purushotham by causing a legal notice dated 24-5-2023 to the said C.S. Purushotham informing the Cancellation and Termination of said GPA. Henceforth, the said C.S. Purushotham have no right, title or interest over the schedule property.

Hence it is hereby informed to all the general public not to make any sort of negotiations or transactions with the above said C.S. Purushotham in respect of the schedule property or any portion thereof with the above said person and if anybody make any transactions with said C.S. Purushotham, you will be doing so at your cost, and risk and my clients are no way held liable for the same.

**SCHEDULE**

All that piece and parcel of the Land bearing Sy.No.86/1, situated at Bellandur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 0-39 guntas, out of 1 Acre 4 ¼ guntas, and bounded on

**East by :** Remaining portion of same land and thereafter property of Naga Reddy and Hanumappa, **West by :** Property of Thimma Reddy, **North by :** Property of Palyada Krishnappa, **South by :** Property of Kakappa and Marappa.

Sd/- **M. Gopal,** Advocate
No. 15/7, 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross, Sampige Road Malleswaram, Bangalore - 560003.
M: 9845172298

**GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA**
**ZILLA PANCHAYATH, KOPPAL**
**THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DIVISION, KOPPAL**

**NO.RWS/Dn/KPL/SBM/202223-24/203 Date:31.05.2023**

**E-PROCURMENT NOTIFICATION**
**Double Cover System**

On Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply & sanitation Division, Koppal Invites e-Tender for SETTING UP OF MRF UNIT IN HASAGAL GRAM PANCHAYAT(UNDER SBM GRANT) IN KOPPAL TALUKA KOPPAL DISTRICT SBM Rural Work The eligible bidders are requested to submit the Bid in Double Cover System through e-procurement mode through portol http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

**General Information:** 1) Contractor should submit the Tender Bid Documents through Online Only. 2) All Documents Should be Scanned and Upload during the period of Applying Tender through Online Only. 3) EMD Amount Should be Submitted Through Online Only. 4) Two Cover Tender Called.

If any More Information Contractor should Contact this office or wide email id:eerwsskpl@gmail.com in Office Hours and Tenders will be Download from 31/05/2023

Tender Processing Fee : **As Per E-Procurement.** Tender Period : **30 Days.** If Any Quarries / Tender Downloading Date **: 05/06/2023 Time: 11.00.** Tender receiving Date and Time : **14/06/2023 Time: 16:00.** Technical Bid Opening Date and Time : **15/06/2023 Date:16:30 Hours.** Financial Bid Opening after approval of the technical bid from the Competent Authority **19/06/2023 or After Obtaining the Technical Bid Approval from the Competent Authority**

The Contractors should produce the Original Documents within 8 days from the open of the tender. If failed such Contractor candidature will not be considered.

**Sd/-Executive Engineer, R.D.W & S .Division, Koppal**

**DIPR/Koppal/22/KSMCA/2023-24**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public are hereby informed that our clients **Mr. Rajendra Prasad Panigrahi S/o Simadri Panigrahi** aged about 72 years and **Mrs. Susama Panigrahi, W/o Rajendra Prasad Panigrahi,** aged about 60 years, both are residing at Plot. No. SC-68. Shaktinagar, Rourkela-769014, Dist. Sundergarh, Orissa, has negotiated and entered into a Sale Agreement with **Mr. Seshatalpasai Madala and Mrs. Monika Mankar** to purchaser the Residential Apartment bearing **No.2061,** situated in Level-6, **Fifth Floor,** of Building No. 1, 'Andrina' in Tower 2, in the project known as **"PRESTIGE LAKESIDE HABITAT"** measuring **855 Square Feet** of Carpet Area and **361 Square Feet** of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common area, in all measuring **1216 square feet** of Super Built-up Area with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement Floor and the apartment is developed on the Property bearing Municipal No.52 in Survey Nos. 210/4, 207/3, 207/6, and other Survey Numbers at SL.No.617 (in the records of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara palike, situated in Gunjur in Municipal Ward No.149 of Varthur, Bangalore.

Any person /s entitles having any claim, right, title or interest over the aforesaid or any part thereof in any manner objecting the sale of the aforesaid property may lodge their claim with documentary proof with the undersigned within **7 days** from the date of this public notice, after which our client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction with the owner and any claim or objection received thereafter will not be binding over the schedule property.

**BEENA.P.K,** Advocate,
NEXTLEGAL SERVICES,
# 270/A, 4th Main 5th 'C' Cross
80 feet Road, HAL 3rd Stage,
Indiranagar, Bangalore-560075.
Mobile No. 91+9972092077

**THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT TRAINING CENTRE**
JC NAGAR, BANGALORE-560006.

**ALLOTMENT OF REGIMENTAL SHOP**

1. Sealed tenders are invited from interested War Widow / Widows of Defence Personnel Killed While on Duty /Disabled Soldiers / Ex-servicemen & Spouses / Widows of Ex-Servicemen subject to license period for a period of one year further extendable upto five years for running below mentioned Regimental Shop at the Parachute Regiment Training Centre, JC Nagar, Bangalore.

| S. No. | Shop Name | Building No. | Loc |
|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | Grocery Shop | P-39/4 | Adjacent to URC complex PRTC |

2. Application form including terms & Conditions for running of above mentioned Regimental Shop can be obtained from the PRI Office of this Centre at the cost of Rs 500/- (Rupees five hundred only) each from 0900 hours to 1400 hours on all working days till 10 June. 2023. **Last date of submission of application form is 15 Jun 2023.**
3. Interested parties can go around the shop with prior permission from authority before last date of submission of application form.
4. The application will be enfaced with **"Application for Allotment of Regimental Shop"** on the envelope at the time of submission.

The Application shall be submitted to:

**DEPUTY COMMANDANT**
The Parachute Regiment Training Centre JC Nagar, Bangalore-560006.

# Text&Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

### Worth of the scheme to increase grain storage capacity

**1** In ₹ lakh crore. The scheme, approved by the government, aims to increase foodgrain storage capacity by 700 lakh tonne in the cooperative sector. The storage will expand to 2,150 lakh tonne from about 1,450 lakh tonne, according to Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur. PTI

### NMC derecognises medical colleges for flouting norms

**30** colleges. About 100 more medical colleges in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Assam, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, and many others may also face similar action for not following standards set by the National Medical Commission (NMC), according to officials. PTI

### Visas issued by the Chinese embassy to Indians this year

**60,000** Visas have been issued in the last five months to Indians travelling to China for studies, tourism and family reunion, according to an embassy spokesperson. Due to the pandemic, China had restricted travel from March 2020. PTI

### Millions of Syrians experiencing "humanitarian stress"

**70** In %. In Syria's 12-year war, this is the first time that 15.3 million people are in dire need of humanitarian aid. The UN appealed for $5.4 billion to help them, without which millions of people are at risk of losing food or any assistance from July this year. AP

### NATO to send more troops to Kosovo to help subdue protests

**700** According to NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, the troops are being sent after the clashes with ethnic Serbs there left 30 international soldiers wounded. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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# China's military diplomacy in Southeast Asia

What is causing China's growing influence in Southeast Asia? How does the Global Security Initiative challenge the ASEAN countries? Why is the increasing proximity of the U.S. with the Philippines worrisome for China?

EXPLAINER

Anushka Saxena

**The story so far:**

Due to its intensifying geopolitical competition with the U.S. and its own security interests in the region, China is expanding its military outreach to Southeast Asian countries. The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA)'s global activities and influence campaigns are part of its broader reform process initiated by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2015, and form a fundamental element of China's overall foreign policy. In this light, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has become a priority target for the People's Liberation Army's military diplomacy.

**What is the People's Liberation Army (PLA) currently undertaking?**

The PLA and the Laotian People's Armed Forces (LPAF) have recently concluded their bilateral military exercise, Friendship Shield 2023. The drills aim to foster interoperability to effectively "counter transnational armed criminal groups based in jungles and mountains." This week-long exercise comes on the heels of Laos' Foreign Affairs Minister Saleumxay Kommasith's visit to China last month. The PLA Southern Theatre Command (PLA STC) is leading a massive delegation to the LPAF's Kommadam Academy for the exercise.

This includes 200 troops from the 75th Group Army's combined-arms brigade, assault vehicles such as the 4x4 MRAP Dongfeng CSK141 (Mengshi), as well as equipment for maritime replenishment, mine clearance, explosive disposal, and epidemic prevention.

Before this, in 2023, the PLA STC conducted the 'Golden Dragon' drills with Cambodia from late March to early April. This too came on the heels of a high-level meeting held between Zhang Youxia, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Central Military Commission (CMC) and the army commander of the Royal Cambodian Army, Hong Manai, in February this year.

The drills saw the participation of over 200 troops from the PLA STC's Army, the Navy, and the Logistical Support Force, who arrived in Cambodia aboard a Type 071 comprehensive landing vehicle, Jinggangshan. The exercise entailed joint anti-terrorism and humanitarian aid operations.

A few weeks later, in late April, the PLA STC conducted a joint exercise with the Singaporean Navy. Both sides deployed minesweepers (PLA Chibi and RSS Intrepid) and frigates (PLA Yulin and RSS Punggol) for shore and sea operations.

All of these joint military endeavours were preceded by a visit from a working group of the Chinese Ministry of National Defence to Laos, Vietnam and Brunei, where the two sides discussed "the relationship between the two militaries and regional security issues of common concern".

These are a few of the many instances of China's military diplomacy with Southeast Asian countries. And in the past couple of months, the frequency of Chinese military drills with its ASEAN partners appears to have increased for two primary reasons. Firstly, Xi Jinping has put excessive emphasis on defence diplomacy under his flagship Global Security Initiative (GSI).

Second, China's threat perception of expanding the United States military engagement with countries in the Asia-Pacific region, especially those countries that China has disputes with in the South and East China Seas region.

**How does the GSI challenge the ASEAN's cohesiveness?**

The GSI invited varied responses from the ASEAN, which reflect the classic divergences in intra-association stances on bandwagoning and hedging between China and the U.S. First, in November 2022, during the ASEAN-China Summit in Cambodia, all parties cautiously agreed to "take note of the GSI proposed by China with core elements consistent with the principles and spirit of the Treaty of Amity," and "looked forward to further details of the GSI."

Over the past few months, the divergences have become visible. As per ISEAS's 'State of Southeast Asia Survey 2023', on average, 27% of those surveyed in the 10 ASEAN place confidence in the GSI. However, of those surveyed in countries such as Cambodia and Brunei, nearly 50% are confident about the Initiative. On the other hand, of those surveyed in countries such as Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar, well over 50% place little to no confidence in it.

These figures, alone, however, are not enough to determine how ASEAN countries are responding to China's expanding comprehensive national power. For example, China's heavy Belt and Road investments have been welcomed by Indonesia. Moreover, despite tensions in the South China Sea, Indonesia has been proactively applauding Chinese support in the advancement of its vaccine programme and its high-speed rail network.

Similarly, despite Vietnam's mistrust of the GSI, analysts suggest that it maintains a relatively neutral stance in its relations with China, which indicates that there is neither rapid progress nor significant deterioration in bilateral relations. This may be because a cautious Vietnam may not want to invite hostility from a significantly larger power in its neighbourhood. Additional factors may include shared socialist values between the central committees of the Communist Parties of Vietnam (CPV) and China (CPC), as well as the success of the Sino-Vietnamese 'Two Corridors and One Economic Circle' Belt and Road project.

On the other hand, in Myanmar, despite a majority of observers placing little to no confidence in the GSI, China is making political, military and economic inroads. Since the takeover of the junta, the development of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor has only accelerated, while new satellite imagery is showing China building a surveillance military base on Great Coco Islands in Myanmar. This also impacts India because the Great Coco Islands lie just 55 km north of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and their militarisation by China poses a strategic threat to India's national security.

**Why is the Philippines' tilt to the U.S. worrisome for China?**

China continues to face competition from the U.S. in its bid to establish a sphere of influence over Southeast Asia. The increasing proximity of the U.S. with the Philippines, with whom China shares a disputed maritime border in the Luzon Strait in the South China Sea, is worrisome for China. What has perhaps recently irked China the most is the Philippines' decision to provide the U.S. with access to four military bases in addition to the five bases the U.S. already had access to, under the 2014 Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement between the two sides.

China has accordingly structured the message around its exercises with Cambodia, Singapore, and Laos as a warning to the Philippines, with a Chinese military commentator Fu Qinghao saying that these exercises "make a model for other countries in the region, including the Philippines, which has been leaning toward the U.S."

To add fuel to the fire, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said that "tensions across the Taiwan Straits seem to be continuing to increase, and so these EDCA sites will also prove to be useful for us should that terrible occurrence come about".

Of course, in tandem with other leaders hedging in the ASEAN, Marcos has since clarified that Washington "cannot use bases in his country for 'offensive action' against China in the event of a conflict over Taiwan." This does not, however, change the fact that the bases are advantageous for the U.S. during an offensive against China, as they help fulfil purposes such as refuel and resupply for warships, intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance (ISR), and blocking Chinese trade through critical chokepoints in the South China Sea.

To defend its claims and interests in the region, China is likely to pursue both aggressive military posturing and diplomacy in Southeast Asia. In early May, for example, Chinese surveillance vessel Xiang Yang Hong 10, accompanied by a contingent of eight other maritime vessels, attempted to intimidate the navies of India and ASEAN countries engaged in the first edition of a multilateral naval drill in the South China Sea. Satellite intelligence also shows China preparing a new naval base in the Ream region of Cambodia.

However, despite China's military and economic inroads in the region, it needs to prove to ASEAN countries sitting on the fence that it has the capability to exercise restraint and act in accordance with the provisions of a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (which is yet to come into force). This is also essential for it to win the ASEAN's confidence for the GSI, which will otherwise, and for good reason, continue to cautiously hedge and balance between American and Chinese influence operations in the region.

*(Anushka Saxena is a research analyst with Takshashila Institution's Indo-Pacific Studies Programme)*

The PLA STC conducted the 'Golden Dragon' drills with Cambodia this year. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

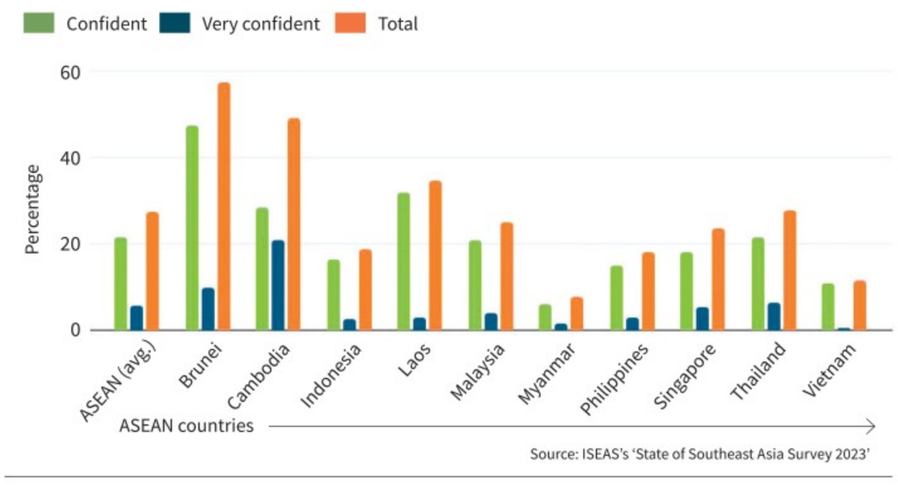
## THE GIST

Due to its intensifying geopolitical competition with the U.S. and its own security interests in the region, China is expanding its military outreach to Southeast Asian countries.

China continues to face competition from the U.S. in its bid to establish a sphere of influence over Southeast Asia. The increasing proximity of the U.S. with the Philippines, with whom China shares a disputed maritime border in the Luzon Strait in the South China Sea, is worrisome for China.

China has structured the message around its exercises with Cambodia, Singapore, and Laos as a warning to the Philippines, with a Chinese military commentator Fu Qinghao saying that these exercises "make a model for other countries in the region, including the Philippines, which has been leaning toward the U.S."

How confident are you that the GSI will benefit the region?




Source: ISEAS's 'State of Southeast Asia Survey 2023'

## Uncertain showers

### Farmers need to be given timely, accurate information on rainfall

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) earlier this week updated its monsoon outlook from April. The latest analysis from the weather models that the IMD relies on suggests near-certainty of the development of an El Niño, a cyclical phenomenon of warming in the Central Pacific that six in 10 years is linked to diminished rainfall in the west, northwest and western parts of central India, especially between July and August. However, despite the certainty of an El Niño, the IMD has chosen to retain its outlook of a 'normal' monsoon, at 96% of the 50-year long-term average of 87 cm. Anything below 96% would have been categorised as 'below normal'. Underlying its assessment is a calculation that another phenomenon, called the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) – a temperature swing between the western and eastern Indian Ocean – would favour rain development and offset the loss in rains from an El Niño. It is important to note that IODs are not as strongly linked to bountiful rains as the El Niño is to depressed rains. In 1997, India had a strong El Niño but received 2% excess rain because of a positive IOD. However, both have not appeared at the same time since that year, and this is the first time since then that both factors are expected to play out in the same monsoon season. The years India last reported a greater than 10% deficit in monsoon rainfall were 2014 and 2015 – both El Niño years.

The IMD update also underlines that rainfed-agriculture zones of the country would be between 92%-104% of the average. While this technically qualifies as 'normal', it is also a very large variation and could mean long, dry spells followed by a period of incessant downpours. This might help meet the region's rainfall 'numbers' but will not be helpful for agriculture. While every monsoon has its own peculiarities whatever the models might say, it would be crucial to watch out for the monsoon's distribution, both spatially and temporally. Sharp deficits during July and August, particularly in central India, are likely to influence agricultural output. More accurate assessments of rain during this month are available through the IMD's extended range forecasts that give a fortnightly prognosis; and these can be quite dynamic. The monsoon is forecast to reach Kerala by June 4, and whether it sticks to this date or arrives a tad early or late has little bearing on the quantity of rain during the core monsoon months. This year, States and the Centre must redouble efforts to convey accurate, timely information to farmers, using all available information channels, down to the block level.

## Status quo in Turkey

### Erdoğan must right the wrongs of the past and offer a new inclusive beginning

When Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) came to power in 2002, riding widespread resentment against the establishment amid economic woes, he was a political outsider – an Islamist in a system dominated by Kemalist secularists. Twenty years later, Mr. Erdoğan is the establishment – the military, traditionally the guardian of the old order, is under his thumb, institutions are at his command and the AKP, with close links to the ulema, remains a hegemonic political machine. But the economic and political situation of 2023 is comparable with that of 2002. Faced with a deepening economic crisis and accusations of backsliding democracy and freedoms, there has been widespread resentment against his long reign. The Opposition united to capitalise on this anger and managed to deny him a first round victory on May 14, but in Sunday's run-off, he won 52.1% of the vote share, against Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu's 47.9%. Mr. Kılıçdaroğlu has accepted the outcome, but called the election process "the most unfair in years". He has a point. Mr. Erdoğan and his allies controlled the big media, shaping the information flow. State institutions, including the religious directorate (Diyanet), which controls mosques and appoints Imams, amplified the AKP propaganda. The President accused the Opposition of having ties with "terrorists" as a mainstream Kurdish party was backing his rival. Mr. Kılıçdaroğlu, a former bureaucrat from the minority Alevi community, led a spirited campaign, but failed to overcome the AKP's Islamist populism.

Mr. Erdoğan, arguably the most powerful Turkish leader since Mustafa Kemal 'Atatürk', has reshaped the country's polity and society over the past 20 years. Kemal Atatürk, who abolished the Ottoman Caliphate and secularised Turkey, saw the clergy as a threat to his vision for the country. Tensions between Kemalism and Islamism have always been there in Turkey's modern history. But until Mr. Erdoğan's rise to power, no Islamist leader had managed to upend the system. While doing so, he amassed powers, rewrote the Constitution, turning it into an executive presidency, got himself elected as the all-powerful President, stifled dissent, stepped up the war against Kurdish rebels, and jailed political rivals. Yet, this election was his biggest challenge. That he had to go into the second round, and with a lead of just three points, should remind him that Turkish society remains polarised. The battered economy needs urgent attention. A new term is an opportunity for Mr. Erdoğan, whose legacy has already been marred by his authoritarian tendencies and mismanagement of the economy, to right the wrongs and offer a new inclusive beginning. But it is unclear whether Turkey's Islamist leader is ready for such a change.

# A parliamentary democracy or an executive democracy

**Gautam Bhatia**

is a Delhi-based lawyer

Last week, a new Parliament building was inaugurated with both fanfare and controversy. In particular, the exclusion of the President of India – the formal head of the executive – from the inauguration, and the symbolism around the *Sengol* – a sceptre originally used to signify the transfer of power between Chola rulers – generated significant debate. Submerged beneath this debate, however, is an overlooked fact: the increasing subordination of the "Parliament" in India's "parliamentary democracy."

Parts of this story are familiar: we know that Bills are passed with minimal or no deliberation. We know that Parliament sits for fewer and fewer days in a year, and parliamentary sessions are often adjourned. We know that presidential ordinances have become a parallel if not dominant form of law-making.

**By constitutional design**

It is tempting to attribute all of this to unscrupulous or callous politicians. What that misses, however, is the understanding that the growing irrelevance of Parliament is not because of individual actions but a matter of constitutional design. In other words, the Indian Constitution, by its very structure, facilitates and enables the marginalisation of Parliament, and the concentration of power within a dominant executive.

How does this happen? Consider the various safeguards that parliamentary democracies generally tend to put in place against executive dominance or abuse. First, in order to enact its agenda, the executive must command a majority in Parliament. This opens up the space for intra-party dissent, and an important role for ruling party parliamentarians – who are not members of the cabinet – to exercise a check over the executive. Occasionally, ruling party backbenchers can even join forces with the Opposition to defeat unpopular Bills (as was the case with various Brexit deals in the U.K. House of Commons between 2017 and 2019). Second, the Opposition itself is granted certain rights in Parliament, and certain limited control over parliamentary proceedings, in order to publicly hold the executive to account. Third, the interests of Parliament against the executive are meant to be represented by the Speaker, a neutral and independent authority. And fourth, certain parliamentary democracies embrace bicameralism: i.e., a second "Upper House" that acts as a revising chamber, where interests other than those of the brute majority are represented (in our case, that is the Rajya Sabha, acting as a council of states).

> Even as the new Parliament has been inaugurated, what is overlooked is the increasing subordination of 'Parliament' in India's 'parliamentary democracy'

When these features function as they should, it becomes very difficult for the executive to ride roughshod over Parliament and, in turn, opens up space for Parliament to act as the deliberative and representative body that it is meant to be.

**A dilution, erasure**

In India, however, each of these features has been diluted or erased over the years.

First, the possibility of intra-party dissent within Parliament has been stamped out by virtue of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution, popularly known as the "anti-defection law". Introduced through a constitutional amendment in 1985, the Tenth Schedule penalises disobedience of the party whip with disqualification from the House altogether. Ironically, as recent events have more than amply demonstrated, the Tenth Schedule has failed to fulfil the purpose for which it was enacted, i.e., to curb horse-trading and unprincipled floor-crossing. What it has done, however, is to strengthen the hand of the party leadership – which, in the case of the ruling party, is effectively the cabinet/executive – against its own parliamentarians. Intra-party dissent is far more difficult when the price is disqualification from Parliament.

Second, right from its inception, the Indian Constitution did not carve out any specific space for the political Opposition in the House. There is no equivalent, for example, of Prime Minister's questions, where the Prime Minister has to face direct questioning of their record from the Leader of the Opposition as well as by other politicians. In other words, the manner of proceedings in Parliament are under the complete control of the executive, with no real constitutional checks upon how that control is exercised.

Third, this is exacerbated by the fact that the Speaker, in our system, is not independent. The Speaker is not required to give up membership of their political party, and is not constitutionally obligated to act impartially. This has led to an increasing trend, at both the central and the State levels, of Speakers acting in a blatantly partisan manner in order to advance the interests of the executive over the interests of the House. Not only does this affect the quality of the deliberations in the lower house (as the Speaker has control over the conduct of the House) but it also has a knock-on effect on the Upper House: as has been seen of late, when the ruling party wishes to avoid effective scrutiny in the Rajya Sabha over Bills, the Speaker simply classifies the Bill as a "money bill", thus depriving the Rajya Sabha of the right to make amendments. This was seen most vividly in the case of the Aadhaar Act, where Rajya Sabha scrutiny was avoided in this precise manner, and many important, rights-protecting amendments could not be passed.

**Role of the Upper House**

Fourth, the role of the Upper House is undercut not only by the Speaker's misclassification of Bills but also by the constitutionally-sanctioned ordinance making power. An ordinance is nothing more than executive legislation; and while, in theory, it is meant to be used only for an emergency, while Parliament is not in session, in practice, it is used as a parallel process of law-making, especially when the executive wants to bypass the Upper House altogether, at least for a period of time, and create a *fait accompli*.

When we put all of this together, what emerges is a picture where the only effective check upon the executive is one where the electorate has thrown up a fractured mandate and the ruling party is forced to govern in a coalition with allies with whom it does not always see eye-to-eye. In such a scenario, coalition partners can exercise something of a check upon the executive in Parliament.

However, when there is a single, majority ruling party, whether at the Centre or in the States, there is very little that Parliament can do. The anti-defection law wipes out intra-party dissent. The political Opposition's scope for participation depends upon the discretion of the executive. Partisan Speakers further ensure that the executive is insulated from public embarrassment at the hands of the Opposition, by controlling the debate. And the Upper House is taken out of the equation, either by the misclassification of money Bills or by the use of ordinance power.

It is no wonder, then, that the quality of parliamentary deliberations has declined: it is simply a mirror of Parliament's own structural marginalisation under the Constitution. Instead, what we have is greater and greater executive power: a situation that resembles presidential systems with strong executives, but without the checks and balances and veto points that those systems have; in effect, the worst of all worlds.

Therefore, even as the new Parliament is inaugurated, the urgent question that we must ask is whether in formal terms, India can continue to be called a parliamentary democracy, or whether we have gradually morphed into an executive democracy. And if, indeed, we want to return to parliamentarianism, what manner of constitutional changes and reforms that it would require.

# Biodiversity is us and we are biodiversity

**Kamal Bawa**

is President Emeritus of the Bengaluru-based Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) and the Convener of Biodiversity Collaborative

The observance of International Biodiversity Day (May 22) was yet another reminder of the pivotal role our natural world plays in resolving the climate change crisis, which, along with the decline of biodiversity, poses an existential threat to our future. Biodiversity, the rich variety of life forms and their interconnections with each other and the environment, is everywhere: inside our bodies as ubiquitous microbiomes, in our backyards, villages, towns, and cities, and in remote wild places as well-organised ecological communities and ecosystems. Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity on land and in oceans is perhaps the least expensive mechanism to sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere so as to cool our land and oceans.

Mitigation of climate change is but one of the several benefits we derive from biodiversity. It also fulfils our basic needs for food, shelter, medicines, mental health, recreation, and spiritual enrichment. To face the continuing decline in the quality of our environment, we will need to rely more and more on solutions that draw upon biodiversity or nature, also called nature-based solutions to secure our future. It is biodiversity that will restore our degraded lands and polluted rivers and oceans and sustain our agriculture in the face of climate change. It is biodiversity that will form the basis of a new sustainable green economy. And it is biodiversity that will inspire our children to opt for a more humane, just, and hopeful future, which accords primacy to the living world.

Despite the importance of biodiversity that ultimately sustains all human endeavours, we have been poor stewards for caring and nurturing life on earth. Globally as well as in India, we have failed to adequately conserve and manage our precious, irreplaceable natural heritage. Biodiversity is declining worldwide, and our last remaining, largely isolated ecosystems are degrading due to changes happening around them, such as loss of species, climate stressors, and continuous human pressures.

> The engagement of all citizens will be key to the enhancement and protection of the world's natural heritage

In India, the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill will further weaken our resolve to sustain the remaining biodiversity.

**Nurturing and managing biodiversity**

In many ways, biodiversity is us and we are biodiversity. Thus, civil society must play a critical role in sustaining our biodiversity. A paradigm shift in the care of biodiversity, long overdue, must begin now, flowing from this International Biodiversity Day.

Let us first change the way we manage our biodiversity. Currently, the main custodian of the natural world is the Indian Forest Service. But the term "Forest" to describe our immense and unique natural heritage is flawed. India's biodiversity is not only on land but also in waterbodies, rivers, deltas, and oceans. A rich array of our ecosystems is in the form of grasslands, savannas, alpine pastures, deserts, and other types of ecological communities. Even in the 20th century, people had started to talk about living organisms and the interconnectedness manifested as ecosystems and ecosystem services in multifunctional landscapes dominated by humans. In the 21st century, the basic terms "forests" and "wildlife" have limited meaning or usefulness.

We must think of multifunctional landscapes, where aspirations, beliefs, traditional knowledge, and direct participation of local communities are central to the notion of conserving and sustaining life on earth. In 2006, policymakers in India enacted the Forest Rights Act, that called for an increase in the stake of indigenous groups in ownership as well as management of biodiversity. However, the Act largely remains on paper, yet to be implemented on the ground. Seventeen years later, it is time to even move beyond the Act's steps to fundamentally alter the way we manage our biodiversity. If biodiversity is everywhere, as it is, we must mainstream it into our daily actions – in every development programme, in every government department, in every public and private institution. And it is time to decentralise the management of biodiversity by bringing together multiple stakeholders, especially local communities, through gram sabhas and biodiversity management committees.

**Mainstreaming biodiversity**

This very mainstreaming of biodiversity is the goal of the proposed National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Wellbeing, an idea this writer has referred to in earlier columns. India's leading conservation biologists, working under the umbrella of the Biodiversity Collaborative based in Bengaluru, conceptualised the idea and developed a road map for the Mission approved in principle by the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Council.

The Mission will enable our country to meet critical challenges in climate change, natural and regenerative agriculture, and ecosystem and public health using biodiversity and ecosystem services – usually referred to as nature-based solutions. The ultimate goal is to enhance and conserve biodiversity to foster human well-being; more specifically, to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals related to poverty alleviation, nutrition and health, and environmental protection, and support an era of new green economy.

People will be at the centre of the Mission, the goal of which is to have all citizens engaged in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, embed consideration of biodiversity in every development-oriented programme of the public and private sectors, and arouse curiosity about nature and a sense of responsibility for safeguarding biodiversity – and our very future – in the minds of every child and every student. Undertaking such a pledge would be a fitting celebration of our precious and irreplaceable natural world.

*The views expressed are personal*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**School dropouts**

There are several ways to overcome the bane of school dropouts (Inside pages, "35 lakh students of Class X failed or dropped out in 2021-22: Education Ministry", May 31). These include providing facilities at school such as wholesome meals, tuition, special attention to students from vulnerable sections, facilities for physical exercise and meditation and yoga. Too much of a dilution of the pass criterion may help reduce the dropout rate but it will contribute to an intellectual shrivelling. There needs to be proper supervision of children at the secondary and higher secondary levels.

**R. Sampath,**
Chennai

**Insurance coverage**

The proposed 'Bima Vistaar' scheme should take care of the obstacles that hinder access to insurance — excessive costs and also the agony faced in getting claims honoured. Companies charge hefty premiums and their agents never explain the 'between the lines' clauses to the prospective insured . Even the filing of online claims and obtaining their approvals are tedious. Many hospitals exploit patients by extracting hefty amounts even for services they never give at the time of hospitalisation. This requires a strengthening of grievance redress mechanisms. In life insurance, hardly any insurance firm has ever encouraged life insurance policies for Below Poverty Line (BPL) people as these fetch lesser commissions. There need to be regular insurance literacy programmes when it comes to inclusive coverage .

**Brij Bhushan Goyal,**
Ludhiana, Punjab

We still follow a western model of risk coverage with utter disregard to the vast potential of the Indian market. More data analysis and innovative underwriting initiatives should be looked into. The vast market should help reduce the cost of insurance, and subsequent increase in individual cover size should be a priority. The existing jargon-filled environment needs to be dismantled.

**Srinivas Gade,**
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

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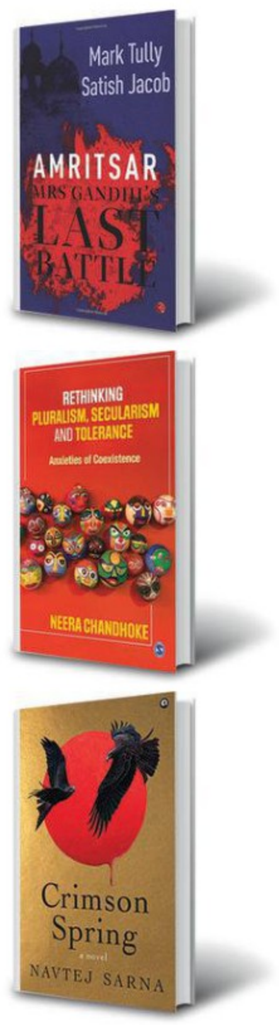



# Ode to a city: why Amritsar brings out the dynamism of the Sikh heartland

Brimming with spirituality, pluralism and a sense of history, the city of Amritsar has always lived on hope, going through cycles of destruction, restoration, regeneration and rebuilding

**Ziya Us Salam**

Every small town has its own rhythm, its own music. Unknown to those confined to metropolises, there is a beauty in decrepitude, old buildings with their lattice screens, shops with rickety shutters and a road where goats, cows, cars, cycles and pedestrians vie for the same space. Though not quite a small town now, Amritsar had a similarly beguiling beauty; a pace of life that made a mockery of those seeking to get ahead. As actor-author Deepti Naval recalls in her elegant prose in *A Country Called Childhood*, "It's getting dark in the city of Amritsar. Shops are shutting down. Street lights come on, casting dim yellow pools of light. Rickshaws and cycles hustle to make their way home. A handcart loaded with gunny bags wobbles down the street. Even Dwarka's kite shop is winding up. The old Sardar tailor pulls his rickety shutter down, gets on his bicycle, and pedals away. Shahni's voice can be heard; she is urging her buffaloes home."

And life went on in an even keel, unflustered, unhurried. There was a joy in the predictable.

Except that Amritsar has seldom had the comfort of peace and quiet. Life and death have often been experienced on the streets of the city. It was that way in 1947 when trainloads of passengers left the city for good, leaving behind forsaken mosques and *dargahs*, *havelis* and hutments. It was no different when trains which started from Lahore teeming with passengers, reached here only with a handful, still breathing, still desperate to be safe. If destiny doles out cards to cities and towns, Amritsar was handed the most challenging.

As Deepti Naval writes about a mosque, called 'maseet' in local lingo, and the changes in the city's demography, "In 1952, the maseet was a dark, deserted place since most Muslims in Amritsar had left for Pakistan during Partition. No one lived there...And then in 1956, the first maulvi returned to the maseet. In the wee hours of the morning, while it was still dark, I suddenly heard a wail..., 'Allahu Akbar'... 'Azaan', whispered Mama, 'Hai... How beautiful...' That night, before going to sleep, my father, for the first time ever, spoke about the 'maseet' as he remembered it from his boyhood days... after 1947, there was not a single *Mussalman* in Amritsar. Not one. Before Partition, the 'maseet' was a vibrant, flourishing place. There would be *dhuandhar taqreeran*, impassioned sermons over the loudspeaker".

It was no different in April, 1919 when the British massacred "hundreds of innocents in Jalianwala Bagh" as Navtej Sarna writes in his novel, *Crimson Spring*. "It was an event which changed Mahatma Gandhi's view of British rule in India. We still don't agree on how many people died there. We have accepted the figure of 379, but that's just the official figure," says Sarna.

**Vibrant way of life**

Indeed, Amritsar for all the cruelties of Mughal monarchs on Sikh gurus was a vibrant place, teeming with life, a life where religion was incidental, not a paramount identity. As Neera Chandhoke writes of a Baba Lakhandwala mazaar in *Rethinking Pluralism, Secularism and Tolerance*, "Here at a simple tomb lit by two oil lamps, Hindus and Sikhs genuflected before the mazaar of a Muslim saint." The worshippers believed that Baba answered their prayers. A story goes, as Chandhoke writes, "During his travels Guru Nanak Dev came across a goatherd, named Lakhan, and asked him for some food. Lakhan offered to the Guru some sweets cooked out of goat milk. In return Guru Nanak Dev blessed Lakhan and granted him a boon: no one would return empty handed from his doorstep. Across the region, Lakhan is known as the giver who does not deny anyone anything."

The city inspired ace photojournalist Raghu Rai to piece together a photo-aced book called *Amritsar: A Remembrance,* where he brought out the dynamism of the Sikh heartland, its spirituality, its shrines, festivals and culture in such a beautiful manner that William Dalrymple called it a love letter to the city.

Amritsar was many things to many people. Essentially, the land of the gurus, it was a place throbbing with spirituality, its Sikh shrines, its sufi strains, its pluralist living.

Yet Amritsar was once again in the throes of tumult and turmoil in the 1980s. The demand for Khalistan threatened to ruin the social fabric. And the Golden Temple or the Harmandar Sahib, the pre-eminent spiritual sight of Sikhism, unfortunately did not stay untouched. The gurdwara had repeatedly borne the brunt of Mughal and Afghan incursions and later became the centre of the Punjabi Subah Movement post-Independence. It all paled into relative insignificance with what happened in 1984 with Operation Bluestar. Then the Indian Army entered here, allegedly to flush out to terrorists who had found a safe haven here. Over a thousand deaths were reported, the Akal Takht was destroyed. Only for the gurdwara to be rebuilt yet again as an open house of worship.

**Recovering from the past**

As Mark Tully and Satish Jacob write in *Amritsar: Mrs. Gandhi's Last Battle*, "It was a battle in which infantry, armour and artillery were used against a small group of Sikhs who had fortified the Golden Temple complex and used it as a base from which to defy the authority of the Indian government. The tragedy is that many Sikhs do not accept this definition. They maintain that it was indeed a battle against their community."

In fact, the Operation Bluestar and events leading to it have got a lot of attention from authors. For instance, *The Punjab Story* with a foreword by K.P.S. Gill and contributions from Khushwant Singh, Shekhar Gupta, Sunil Sethi, Tavleen Singh, and others also talks of the times, stating, "6 June 1984: The Indian Army storms the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Called Operation Bluestar, the historic event ended the growing spectre of terrorism perpetrated by the extremist leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale". Amritsar was wounded. The city where Hindus and Sikhs had *roti-beti ke rishte* (broke bread together and married each other) stood divided.

After the mayhem, however, Amritsar recovered again. Samjhauta Express, the train that connected India and Pakistan, resumed. Hindus started going to the Golden Temple again. Life moved on in an even keel.

As written by Jigna Desai in Raghu Rai's *Amritsar: A Remembrance*, "Amritsar is a city that never forgets its history as it goes through cycles of destruction, restoration, regeneration and rebuilding".

FROM THE ARCHIVES

## *Know Your English*

**K. Subramanian**

"Sir, Ms. G. Aruna, Junior Lecturer in English, Gudur, wants to know the meaning of the word 'gubernatorial'."

" 'Gubernatorial' means 'of a governor or his office'. In Latin, *gubernator* means 'a governor'. In Latin, *gubernare* literally means 'to steer or pilot a ship, direct, guide'. The word 'govern' is also from *gubernare*.. 'Gubernatorial' is used more in American English than in British English. It is used as a constitutional or legal term. You would sound pompous if you said, 'I liked the gubernatorial speech'."

"Sir, Mr. Sanjay Bhatia, H-3, Samarpan Flats, Gulbai Tekra, Ahmedabad, wants to know the meaning of the idiom, 'The boot is now on the other leg'."

"It means that the situation has completely changed. When a situation has completely altered, you can say, 'The boot is on the other leg'. You can also say, 'The boot is on the other foot'."

"Sir, what's the meaning of 'He got the boot'?"

"It means that he was dismissed, sacked, fired. 'He gave him the boot' means that he dismissed him."

"Sir, Mr. S.A. Abdullah, Srinagar, wants to know whether the word 'banian' (what one wears under the shirt) is a word of Indian origin."

"The word 'banian', 'banyan' is from Sanskrit *vanij*, a merchant. In Hindi, it is *baniya*. The word 'banian' or 'banyan' was used in English as early as the 16th century.

Their undershirt, which was originally of muslin, came to be called 'banian'.

"Sir, Mr. K. Prasada Rao, III Lane, Cloughpet, Ongole, wants to know the meaning of 'renoncants' in 'renoncants of the Union Territory of Pondicherry' as he doesn't find the word in the dictionary."

"You won't find this word in any English dictionary. It is a French word. I wasn't aware of the exact significance of the word till Prof. M. J. N. A. Xavier, Department of French, CIEFL, who is also from Pondicherry, enlightened me on this. This is what he said: 'In the former French settlements in India (Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe, Yanam and Chandranagore), there were two categories of French nationals. One was the 'renoncants' and the other 'sujets' (subjects). The renoncants enjoyed the same status as that of the French people; they were treated on par with the people of France with regard to pay, facilities for work in any French colony; but they had to do compulsory military service for two years and have a French name added to their name irrespective of the religion or community they belonged to. The 'sujets' were treated as locals and were allowed to work only in the French settlements in India. They were not expected to do any military service and their pay and other things were decided locally and were different from those of the 'renoncants'. I am grateful to Prof. Xavier for his clarification."

*Published in The Hindu on March 8, 1988*

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

## Since 2001, June 1 has been observed as World Milk Day to recognise its importance as a global food. A quiz on all things related to milk

**V.V. Ramanan**

**QUESTION 1**
How is milk 'toned'?

**QUESTION 2**
What is the Sanskrit name for the Ocean of Milk that was churned to get nectar and where Vishnu resides by reclining on Sesha?

**QUESTION 3**
Fill in the blank: A cow's milk is slightly yellowish in coloUr, when compared to buffalo's milk, due to the presence of_____?

**QUESTION 4**
If it is Aavin for Tamil Nadu and Milma for Kerala, what is it for Karnataka?

**QUESTION 5**
Which five-lettered word describes the mammary glands of female cattle, goats, etc. that produces milk?

**QUESTION 6**
Casein, the main protein in milk, forms 'micelles'. What happens because 'micelles' scatter light?

**QUESTION 7**
Many individuals are unable to fully digest the sugar found in milk and as a result have diarrhoea, gas, and bloating after consuming dairy products. What is the common two-word term used for such a condition which takes its name from the most common type of sugar found in milk?

**Visual question:**
Name this Padma Vibhushan awardee called the 'Father of the White Revolution of India'.

**Questions and Answers of the previous day's daily quiz:**
1. This clock tower is in the confines of the Fort campus of the University of Mumbai. Identify the tower. When was this added to the list of World Heritage Sites? **Ans: Rajabai Tower, 2018**
2. Which was the first brand which used the face of the Duquesne Brewery Clock for the advertisements? **Ans: U.S., Coca-Cola**
3. The official name of the tower in which Big Ben is located was the Clock Tower, but it was renamed in 2012. What is the new name? Why was it renamed? **Ans: Elizabeth Tower to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Elizabeth II**
4. The Dufferin Clock Tower is a historic relic of Mysuru. This is also known by another name locally. What is it? Close by, there is another clock tower built in 1927. Name both the clock towers. **Ans: Chikka Gadiyara, Dodda Gadiyara**
5. This clock tower consists of 12 clocks encircling a central one with 57 dials. These clocks show the time on all continents, phases of the moon, times of tides and many other periodic phenomena. Identify this tower situated in Belgium. **Ans: Zimmer tower**

Visual: Identify this medieval clock. When was it first installed? **Ans: Prague astronomical clock, 1410**

**Early Birds:** K.N. Viswanathan | Himanshu Verma

## Word of the day

**Pedantic:**
concerned with minor details or rules

**Synonyms:** precise, exact, meticulous

**Usage:** *His analyses are careful and even painstaking, but never pedantic*

**Pronunciation:** bit.ly/43wJFHl

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /pɪˈdantɪk/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

# Is India missing the graphene bus?

**Ajay Kumar**
is former Defence Secretary, and Distinguished Visiting Professor, IIT Kanpur

What Artificial Intelligence (AI) is to software and quantum computing is to computers, graphene is to materials. These three emerging technologies will disrupt the existing human-machine interface in the next couple of decades. While India is among the leaders in AI and a potential challenger in quantum computing, it needs to catch up in the area of graphene.

**A wonder material**

Graphene is the world's thinnest, strongest, and most conductive material of both electricity and heat. It conducts electricity better than copper. It is 200 times stronger than steel but six times lighter. It is almost perfectly transparent as it absorbs only 2% of light. It is impermeable to gases, even those as light as hydrogen and helium. It has the potential to revolutionise electricity, conductivity, energy generation, batteries, sensors and more. Also, when added to other materials, graphene even in small quantities produces composite materials with dramatically transformed qualities. Graphene composites are used in aerospace, automotive, sports equipment and construction. It is used for high-performance batteries and super-capacitors, touchscreens, and conductive inks.

Graphene-based sensors are used for environmental monitoring, healthcare and wearable devices. Graphene oxide membranes are used for water purification and desalination. Graphene-based masks were made during COVID.

Graphene is important for defence and aerospace as well. Its exceptional strength makes it promising material for armour and ballistic protection. Graphene has the potential to absorb and dissipate electromagnetic waves, making it valuable for developing stealth coatings and materials that reduce radar signatures and electromagnetic interference. Graphene is highly sensitive to environmental changes, which makes it an excellent candidate for sensing chemical and biological agents, explosives, radiation, and other hazardous substances. Besides, graphene-based materials can also protect us against chemical and biological attacks. Better energy storage and electronics properties make graphene attractive in defence and aerospace as well as in civil and commercial applications.

Never has one material had such an impact on so many sectors. Materials define an age – the stone age, iron age, plastic age and silicon age. There are reasons to believe that we are entering the graphene age. According to the Grand View Research, the global graphene market size was valued at $175.9 million in 2022 and is expected to grow at a CAGR of 46.6% between 2023 and 2030.

Although graphene was discovered in 2004, it was difficult to produce high-grade large-scale graphene. However, things are changing fast. As per a report, at least one graphene-enhanced product was launched every week in 2022. Over 300 companies are now producing graphene or its derivatives.

Among the leading countries in graphene research are China, the U.S., the U.K., Japan, South Korea, Russia, and Singapore. Till 2012, graphene-related patent filing was dominated by the U.S. From 2013 to 2016, South Korea and China matched the U.S. After 2017, China surged ahead. In 2018, China filed 218 patents while the other leading countries together filed 79. India had eight filings.

China and Brazil are global leaders in the commercial production of graphene. At the Beijing Graphene Institute, set up in 2018, several companies produce industry-grade graphene products. India produces about one-twentieth compared to China and one-third compared to Brazil.

India needs to catch up in the research and production of graphene, which is the defining material of this age

**India's progress**

But India's progress has been better than many nations. The Centre for Nano Science and Engineering at IISc Bangalore along with KAS Tech produced a graphene-based system several years ago. Some start-ups and foreign subsidiaries have started graphene or graphene derivatives in India. Notably, Tata Steel has succeeded in growing graphene (about 50 micrometers large domains) using annealing and extracting atomic carbon from steel surface. It has also mixed graphene with used plastic products to recycle them as new. India's niche is going to be innovation using graphene. It figured out how graphene oxide-based wrappers loaded with preservatives can increase the shelf life of fruits and vegetables. The IIT Roorkee-incubated Log 9 has patented a technology for graphene-based ultracapacitors, and the IIT Kanpur-incubated RF Nanocomposites has developed EMI shielding and stealth technology using graphene-based nanotubes. But this trickle needs to be converted into a torrent. A laudable step in this direction was the setting up of the India Innovation Centre for Graphene in Kerala. It is being implemented by the Digital University Kerala in partnership with Tata Steel and C-MET, Thrissur. The Centre needs to become the nodal point to spur large-scale innovation activity around graphene.

Governments have a crucial role to play. China declared graphene a priority in its 13th Plan. Europe set up the Graphene Flagship, with a budget of €1 billion in 2013. Can India not have a national graphene mission? A nodal Ministry needs to be entrusted with this responsibility; else the subject will fall through the cracks. India needs to be among the leaders in graphene because we may experience the 'winner takes the most' situation here. Given the high cost-to-volume ratio for high-grade graphene, its production may get concentrated in a few locations in the world, as in the case of semiconductors. India missed the semiconductor bus in the mid-1990s. The time to step on the graphene pedal is now.

# Where court orders dominate politics

The Calcutta High Court has become a ground for political muscle-flexing

STATE OF PLAY

**Shiv Sahay Singh**
shivsahay.s@thehindu.co.in

Matters pertaining to the West Bengal recruitment scam are keeping the Calcutta High Court busy even during summer vacation. On May 22, a Vacation Bench of the court declined to issue an interim stay on an investigation by central agencies into the alleged scam in the recruitment of employees to seven municipalities. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate had stumbled upon irregularities in recruitment by municipalities while investigating the alleged scam in school jobs in the State. Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay, who has been hearing the school recruitment case, had directed an investigation by the central agencies into recruitments to municipalities on April 21.

Ever since the Trinamool Congress came to power for its third consecutive term in 2021, the Calcutta High Court has been buzzing with matters that have dominated the political discourse of the State. From cases relating to the 2021 post-poll violence to the unrest at Bogtui village in March 2022 and the Ram Navami clashes in March-April 2023, the court's judgments have had far-reaching implications on State politics.

In most of the cases dealing with political violence, killings and sexual assault, the court has ruled against the State government. It has often underlined the necessity for an investigation by central agencies or a special investigation team set up by the court, to restore the people's faith.

The setbacks to the State government have often triggered run-ins with the judiciary. Ruling party spokespersons have targeted the court, particularly Justice Gangopadhyay. Last September, Justice Gangopadhyay said in an interview to a Bengali news channel that he was determined to root out the corruption that had surfaced in the school jobs case. Things took an ugly turn in March 2023 when posters against Justice Rajasekhar Mantha were put up on the court premises and near his residence. A three-judge Bench of the High Court is hearing a contempt petition on the issue. Justice Mantha gave several orders for CBI probes in cases relating to political violence, and had given protection to the Leader of the Opposition, Suvendu Adhikari, from coercive action by the West Bengal police.

While there can be debates around judgments, personal criticism of judges is a dangerous trend which can potentially interfere with the process of delivery of justice. In some instances, cases involving political violence and irregularities have taken a long time. Also, every court order is not a political setback or victory as political parties make it out to be. The Trinamool maintains political dominance in the State and the Opposition cannot match it on the ground.

The courts have played a crucial role in the politically volatile State since 2006. From the Singur land acquisition to Nandigram police firing to the massacre at Netai, the High Court has played an important role in the dispensation of justice. However, certain politically sensitive cases like the Saradha chit fund scam and the Narada sting videos assigned to central agencies at the behest of the court are still far from nearing their logical conclusion even after years of investigation. At present, there are other cases in the alleged recruitment scam, apart from those relating to the violence at Kaliaganj and the death of 11 people due to a blast at an illegal firecracker factory at Purba Medinipur.

The long-drawn court battles with political significance have taken a different turn over the past two years as the battle between the Trinamool and a surging BJP is being increasingly fought in courtrooms. As a result, the orders and judgments of the High Court have dominated the political discourse in the State.

While issuing a stay on the termination of jobs of about 32,000 primary teachers in state-run schools, a division Bench of the High Court on May 19 observed, "It is trite that justice delayed is justice denied and, conversely, justice hurried is justice buried." The Bench, while delivering the order, also observed that the termination of jobs, without extending a meaningful right of defence to the affected parties, prima facie requires judicial intervention.

As investigation picks up in the recruitment case, there will be several orders and judgments that can go either way in favour of the ruling dispensation or the Opposition. But what will be required is a fine balance between judicial activism and judicial restraint, apart from constructive criticism of judgments instead of personal targeting of judges.

# A note in decline before its withdrawal

The ₹2,000 notes, introduced to meet the currency requirement after demonetisation, has outlived its utility

DATA POINT

**Jasmin Nihalani**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s move to withdraw ₹2,000 banknotes from circulation on May 19, 2023, was a stark reminder of the ghosts of demonetisation.

In a press release, the central bank justified the move by stating that the banknote, which was introduced to meet the currency requirement after ₹500 and ₹1,000 banknotes were withdrawn in November 2016, had fulfilled its objective. The RBI also cited its 'Clean Note Policy' to contend that the ₹2,000 notes were nearing the end of their estimated life span of 4-5 years as the majority of them were issued before March 2017. Its statement also said that ₹2,000 notes were not commonly used for transactions and that banknotes of other denominations were adequate to meet the demand.

As of March 2023, the share of ₹2,000 notes in the total value of banknotes in circulation had dipped to 10.8% compared to the 50% share they had by the end of March 2017. Over three-fourths or 77% of the total value of banknotes are now accounted for by ₹500 banknotes. This is in stark contrast to the pre-demonetisation period where two high-value currency notes – ₹500 and ₹1,000 – together accounted for the lion's share of the banknotes in circulation. **Chart 1** shows the share of various denominations in the total value of banknotes in circulation.

As **Chart 2** shows, the volume of ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation began undergoing a gradual decline after peaking in 2018 at 33,630 lakh pieces. By the end of March 2023, the volume had dropped by 46% to 18,111 lakh pieces. The chart shows the volume (in lakh pieces) and value (as a share of total banknotes in circulation) of ₹2,000 banknotes.

Moreover, the printing of ₹2,000 notes were stopped in 2018-19. According to the RBI's statement, this happened because the stock of banknotes in other denominations was adequate to meet the currency requirement of the public.

While the supply of ₹2,000 notes was stopped, the supply of ₹500 did not see a commensurate rise and remained stagnant. With the void left by the withdrawal of the ₹ 2,000 banknote, the supply of ₹500 could increase or another high-value currency can be introduced. This would push up the printing cost of notes incurred by the central bank. **Chart 3** shows the year-wise supply of banknotes in various denominations.

According to the government, the decision to cancel the legal tender status of the high-denomination notes of ₹500 and ₹1,000 was taken to curb terror financing through the proceeds of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) and to counter the hoarding of black money. The press release by the Ministry of Finance then said, "High denomination notes are known to facilitate the generation of black money. In this connection, it may be noted that... the total number of banknotes in circulation rose by 40% between 2011 and 2016."

In the seven-and-a-half years since demonetisation, there has been a 36% rise in the number of currency notes in circulation. As far as counterfeit notes are concerned, fake notes in the denomination of ₹2,000 have remained low and are in decline. But more than 91,000 fake ₹500 notes were detected by the end of March 2023. While this number is much lower than the number of fake currency notes detected of the withdrawn ₹500 banknotes, it has been on a consistent rise since its introduction only six years ago. **Chart 4** shows the number of counterfeit notes detected in various denominations over the years.

## Ending on a dour note

The data for the charts has been collated from various editions of the Reserve Bank of India' s annual reports

**Chart 1:** The chart shows the share (in %) of various denominations in the total value of banknotes in circulation

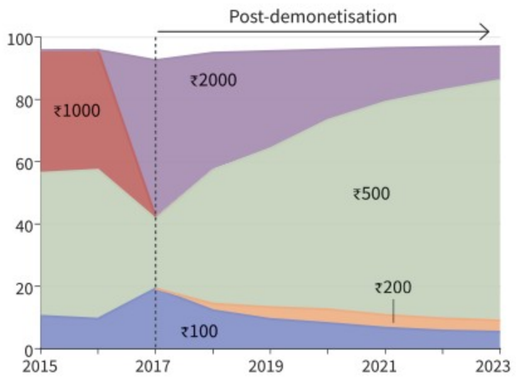



**Chart 2:** The chart shows the volume (lakh pieces, left axis) and value (as a share of total banknotes in circulation, right axis) of the ₹2000 banknotes

**Chart 3:** The chart shows the year-wise supply of banknotes in various denominations

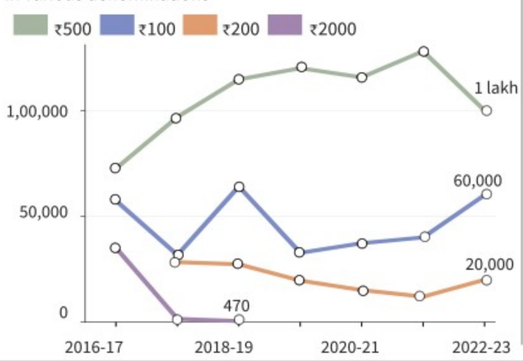
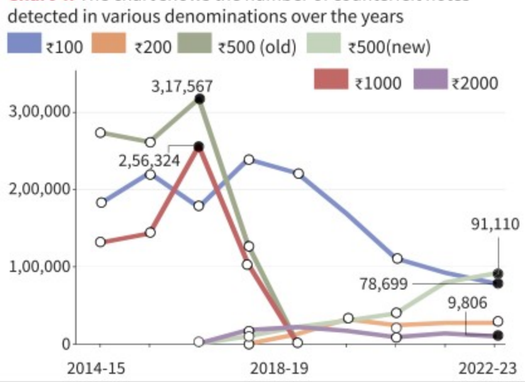



**Chart 4:** The chart shows the number of counterfeit notes detected in various denominations over the years




FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 1, 1973

## INTERPOL aid to be sought to get back stolen idol

Madras, May 31: The Tamil Nadu police have proposed to seek the good offices of the INTERPOL to get back the stolen Sivapuram Nataraja idol which has now been located in the United States.

Disclosing this to newsmen to-day, the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. F.V. Arul, said he would be leaving for Paris to-morrow to attend the INTERPOL conference where he would take up the matter with the international organisation.

The Police had already requested the State Government to move the Government of India to approach the U.S. Government for getting back the idol, he said. On two earlier occasions, he recalled, the United States had restored smuggled art treasures to the countries of their origin.

Mr. Arul pointed out that Mr. Norton Simon, who acquired the idol for one million dollars (Rs. 75 lakhs), had already expressed his willingness (in a press statement) to return the idol if the Government of India could guarantee that art treasures were not smuggled out of the country in future.

The 110 cm. tall bronze idol stolen from the Sivapuram temple in Thanjavur District now forms part of the art collections of the American millionaire, Mr. Norton Simon.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 1, 1923

## Pasteur centenary in French India

Calcutta, May 30: By a decree of the muster for the colony in Paris, May 27th having been fixed for the celebration of the great French Savant M. Louis Pasteur, all French colonies in India fittingly celebrated the event. At Chandernagore the Mayor was the chairman of the Fete committees. Charity Football match, ball and theatrical performance were among the items of the Fete. In the afternoon a meeting was held under the presidency of the Administrature De Chandernagore when speeches on the life of the greatest scientist were delivered. A sum of money was collected to be sent to the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

From Page One

## GDP expanded 6.1% in 2022-23's last quarter

The growth estimates for the first and second quarters were pared to 11.9% and 5.4% respectively, while the third quarter GVA growth was revised higher to 4.7%, from the 4.6% reckoned earlier.

"While growth in private final consumption expenditure witnessed a slight uptick to 2.8% in Q4 from 2.2% in Q3, it remained muted, belying the uptick in consumer sentiments as per the RBI's consumer confidence survey," ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar pointed out.

The higher-than-expected GDP growth last year could also temper growth expectations for this year, which the government and central bank expect to be around 6.5%, said Madan Sabnavis, the Bank of Baroda's chief economist. Amid a global slowdown, maintaining growth over 6% will be challenging, he reckoned.

Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran was more optimistic and said the growth momentum continued across agriculture, industry and services sectors. India's 6.1% GDP growth was the fastest among major economies, he asserted, adding that prospects look better for this year than they did four months ago.

"We are prepared to stick our necks out and say that the risks to a 6.5% growth projection for this year are more evenly balanced now, than at the time of the Economic Survey's presentation when we felt that downside risks dominate," Mr. Nageswaran said.

## Air services assured for Manipur's hill areas

According to Thangboi Lhungdim of the Kuki Students Organisation in Moreh, Mr. Shah assured them of helicopter services plying from Churachandpur to Aizawl and Guwahati in the neighbouring States of Mizoram and Assam.

**'Chain reaction'**

As Mr. Shah held meetings, at least seven villages in the two districts were attacked and several houses were set on fire, according to Muan Tombing, general secretary of the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF). Since May 26, days before Mr. Shah arrived in Imphal on May 29, more than 900 houses in 31 villages in the hill districts of Chandel, Kangpokpi and Churachandpur have been burnt down and around 4,750 people have been displaced, ITLF said.

"Even as the Home Minister was visiting, several houses were burnt down. When we told him about the incidents, the Home Minister said it is a chain reaction from both sides and called to maintain peace for 15 days," Mr. Lhungdim said.

The groups reiterated their demand for President's Rule and a separate administration for tribal areas from Manipur.

**Need for choppers**

Mr. Tombing added that there are several students and officials posted with Central government who are stuck in the hills. "The distance between Aizawl and Churachandpur by road is 400 km. That is why we are demanding helicopter services as we cannot go to Imphal airport. One of the Kuki MLAs who went to attend a meeting in Imphal after the May 3 violence is still in the Intensive Care Unit," he said.

While the State's Director-General of Police P. Doungel accompanied Mr. Shah to the hill areas, the officer – who belongs to the Kuki community – was not present in the security review meeting held in Imphal in the presence of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. Mr. Shah was briefed by retired IPS officer Kuldiep Singh, who was appointed as security adviser by the Manipur government after the May 3 violence. The Chief Minister did not accompany Mr. Shah to the tribal districts. The tribal groups and ten Kuki legislators, including seven from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), have demanded his resignation.

# 16 parties to participate in June 12 Opposition meet

Several leaders including Mamata and Pawar have confirmed their presence; Congress bigwigs Kharge and Rahul might opt out because of 'scheduling' issues but party to send a representative

**Sobhana K. Nair**
NEW DELHI

In the very first Opposition meeting, to discuss electoral strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha election against the BJP scheduled to be held on June 12, 16 parties have confirmed their presence.

Though according to sources, both Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former president Rahul Gandhi might skip the meeting hosted in Patna by Janata Dal (S) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, citing "scheduling" problems.

The Congress wanted the meeting to be postponed for June 23. But it was felt that it is difficult to arrive at a date that will be suitable for everyone so the meeting should continue as per the finalised schedule.

The Congress has assured that it will depute one of its leaders to attend the meeting. "If the Congress wants to show that it cares about Opposition unity, it must depute one of the Chief Ministers to attend in the absence of Mr. Kharge and Mr. Gandhi," a senior Opposition leader quipped.

The meeting hosted by Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, left, will also see participation of his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal. FILE PHOTO

**Common candidate**

While the Congress bigwigs might be absent, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) patriarch Sharad Pawar, among others have confirmed their presence. While this is just a preliminary meeting, the Opposition is aiming to arrive at an agreement for fielding one common candidate against the BJP on every Lok Sabha seat.

In his previous confabulations with Mr. Kumar and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav in Delhi, Mr. Gandhi had suggested a "*chintan shivir*" to come up with a common stand on key issues to counter the BJP. "Mr. Gandhi wanted all Opposition leaders to sit together for three to four days away from Delhi to have detailed dialogue to sort out ideological and political differences. We will have many rounds of meetings, both one-on-one and in larger groups," a Congress leader said.

For Mr. Kejriwal, Mr. Kharge and Mr. Gandhi's absence is partially a missed opportunity. At least three Opposition leaders who recently met Mr. Kejriwal have confirmed that he has complained multiple times, that despite his efforts for the last three months to meet the Congress leadership, neither Mr. Gandhi nor Mr. Kharge has positively responded. Mr. Kejriwal in the last two weeks has nearly met heads of all Opposition parties to garner support for AAP's fight against Centre's ordinance on posting and transfer of bureaucrats that gives the Lieutenant-Governor overarching powers over the elected government.

*(With inputs from Abhinay Deshpande)*

# Gyanvapi case: HC turns down plea by mosque panel

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday dismissed the plea moved by the Anjuman Intazamia Mosque Committee, which manages the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, challenging the maintainability of a suit filed by women worshippers in the district court, seeking the right to worship Hindu deities inside the mosque premises. Thus, the High Court upheld the Varanasi court's order, holding the suit to be maintainable.

The Bench of Justice J.J. Munir announced the order, which has been reserved since last December. The detailed order in the matter is still awaited.

**Right to worship**

In August 2021, Rakshi Singh and four other Hindu women moved the Varanasi civil court, seeking the right to worship Hindu deities within the Gyanvapi mosque premises all through the year. In their claim, the plaintiffs had said that the Gyanvyapi mosque and its premises was once a Hindu temple. They claimed that Mughal ruler Aurangzeb had demolished the temple and built the mosque above it.

The maintainability of their suit was challenged in April 2022 by the Anjuman Committee, which filed an application arguing that the Hindu worshippers' suit was barred by law, referring to the Places of Worship Act, 1991.

After a Supreme Court order, the matter was transferred to the Varanasi district court, which dismissed the mosque committee's plea in September 2022. District judge A.K. Vishvesha had ruled that neither the Places of Worship Act, 1991, nor the Waqf Act, 1995, nor the U.P. Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Act, 1983 prevented the suit from being heard. He said that the "plaintiffs will have right to prove their averments by cogent evidence".

The mosque committee had then appealed the district court's order in the High Court in October 2022.

# Nine years of BJP rule dedicated to welfare, good governance: PM

**The Hindu Bureau**
AJMER

Narendra Modi

Accusing the Congress of promoting corruption and following a policy of appeasement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the nine years of BJP rule were dedicated to welfare of the poor, good governance and service to the citizens.

He said the people were suffering before 2014, when the Congress misguided them and they faced terror attacks.

Mr. Modi also criticised the Opposition's boycott of the inaugural ceremony of the new Parliament building on Sunday, while holding the Congress responsible for deceiving public opinion in the matter. He said the Congress had tried to destroy India's moment of pride for its "ego-centric and senseless opposition".

Mr. Modi made the remarks while addressing a huge public rally here, marking the completion of nine years of the BJP government at the Centre.

The rally in Rajasthan, where the Assembly election will be held in December this year, was the first major event in a month-long mass connect campaign of the BJP.

In an apparent retort to the Congress' jibe of "40% commission government" in Karnataka, where the BJP was defeated recently, Mr. Modi said the Congress was a party that took a cut of 85% in every project.

"The nation did not progress [earlier] despite there being no shortage of money for development works," he said. He ridiculed the "guarantee habit" of the Congress, saying the ruling party in State was holding a "false guarantee show" through the inflation relief camps.

# Modi among those who think they know more than God, Rahul says at event in U.S.

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP at a diaspora event in the United States, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said that Mr. Modi is a "specimen" of a group of people who think they know more than God.

Mr. Gandhi, interacting with members of the Indian community at a *Mohabbat ki Dukaan* (shops of love) event in Santa Clara (California) on Tuesday, claimed that the aggression that Muslims now face in India was once faced by the Dalits in the 1980s.

He said India was not a fair place for Dalits, tribals, minorities and the poor and that was something that the Congress party was trying to change.

He is on a six-day tour of the U.S. where he is scheduled to participate in different events including speaking at Stanford University, addressing the National Press Club at Washington, a closed-door session at a think-tank and interact with intellectuals, academics and lawmakers among others.

"The world is too big and complicated for any person to know everything. That is the disease... There is a group of people in India who are absolutely convinced they know everything. They think they know even more than God. can sit with God and explain to him what's going on. And of course, our Prime Minister is one such specimen," he said.

**'Core of mediocrity'**

The Congress leader claimed "this group" can teach history to historians, science to scientists and warfare to the army. "But at the core of it is mediocrity. They're not ready to listen," he noted.

Talking about the inauguration of the new Parliament building and the *Sengol* row, Mr. Gandhi said these issues were distractions as the Modi government cannot address issues like unemployment, price rise, and the spread of anger and hatred.

"The BJP can't really discuss these issues so they have to do the sceptre thing. Lying down and doing all that. Aren't you happy that I'm not lying down?," he asked.

When a supporters of Khalistan disrupted his speech, he briefly paused and said "*mohabbat ki dukaan*" before the protesters were taken out by security personnel.

At another event in Santa Cruz, Mr. Gandhi asserted that the BJP can be defeated if all the Opposition parties are "properly aligned" and added that the process to bring Opposition parties together was progressing well.

# BJP hits back at Rahul with 'fake Gandhi' jibe

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

BJP leaders and Ministers on Wednesday launched an all out attack against former Congress MP Rahul Gandhi for his remarks targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the U.S.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur said that Mr. Gandhi had made it a habit to insult India on every foreign trip of his. "In foreign countries, Rahul Gandhi said that there used to be atrocities on Dalits and Scheduled Caste families in the 80s. Tell me, Rahul-*ji* that how did the atrocities on Dalits, Scheduled Caste people and minorities get the protection of the Congress?" Mr. Thakur asked.

Calling him "Fake Gandhi", Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said that he found it funny how "someone who knew nothing is suddenly an expert on everything". Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said that Mr. Gandhi had "just one work to do, that is to verbally abuse PM Modi and defame the country".

# Case against WFI chief is still under consideration, status report will be submitted in court: Delhi police

**Samridhi Tewari**
NEW DELHI

Security personnel deployed near the India Gate as the entry was closed for public in the wake of possible protest. R.V. MOORTHY

The Delhi Police on Wednesday said the case against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and Lok Sabha MP, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, is under consideration and a status report will be submitted in court.

Denying media reports that had quoted sources saying that the Delhi Police lacked sufficient evidence to back up allegations levelled by the female wrestlers against Mr. Singh, the DCP (PRO) Suman Nalwa said a report will be filed in 15 days. The police took to Twitter to say: "It is clarified that this news is wrong and the investigation into this sensitive case is under progress with all sensitivity." However, after an hour, the Delhi Police's Twitter handle deleted its own message and later stated, "...the cases filed by women wrestlers are still under consideration".

"As the cases are under investigation, it would be against procedure to say anything before the report is filed in court," a message read. Since April 23, several wrestlers have been protesting in the national capital, demanding Mr. Singh arrest. They have accused him of sexual misconduct. On Tuesday, wrestlers had gathered on the banks of the Ganga to immerse their medals, to protest police inaction in the said case. They were later stopped by farmer leader Naresh Tikait, who asked them to wait another five days. A farmer leader, who is part of the protests, said that the wrestlers did not protest on Wednesday.

State president of BKU Charuni Suman Hooda told *The Hindu* that the wrestlers have gathered, along with farmers and khap leaders to discuss plans. "As of now, we have a five-day period, we won't be protesting on Thursday, however, other organisations have called for protests," Ms. Hooda said.

*(With PTI inputs)*

## Trust the police, says Thakur

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Anurag Thakur, on Wednesday, said that a committee was formed at the request of the wrestlers, and they performed an unbiased investigation.

"Wrestlers shouldn't do anything that harms the sport and the players, they should wait for the investigation to be completed, they should trust the Delhi police and the Supreme Court," Mr. Thakur said. He added, "government action has always followed after an investigation concludes".

## Cong. flays PM for not reaching out to wrestlers

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not making an appeal to the protesting wrestlers to not immerse their medals in the Ganga river.

It claimed that the Modi government's slogan of '*Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*' has now become '*Beti BJP ke netaon se bachao*' (save daughters from BJP leaders).

Congress leader Depender Hooda asked the BJP if the law did not apply to Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who has been accused of sexual misconduct.

**Ally for justice:** Mamata Banerjee walking in support of wrestlers who are staging protests in Delhi. DEBASISH BHADURI

# Mamata takes out rally in support of grapplers

**Shiv Sahay Singh**
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday hit the streets here in support of wrestlers who are staging protests in Delhi against the Wrestling Federation of India chairman and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

With a placard in her hand reading 'We want justice', Ms. Banerjee walked from Hazra to Rabindra Sadan in south Kolkata.

She was joined by sportspersons from several clubs of Kolkata Maidan. "The manner in which our wrestlers are being tortured is extremely unfair," she said. The Chief Minister promised to continue to protest against the BJP government until the culprit has been arrested.

# Probe role of Manipur CM, MP in violence: tribal forum

Members blame 'extremist' Meitei groups for clashes; MTFD general secretary says the State has been seeing 'polarisation politics' only after the Biren Singh government came to power

**Abhinay Lakshman**
NEW DELHI

The Manipur Tribals' Forum, Delhi (MTFD), has demanded that the Union government investigate the alleged role of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and BJP Rajya Sabha MP Leishemba Sanajaoba in fuelling the ethnic clashes that erupted in Manipur on May 3 between the Meitei and Kuki-Zomi community.

The MTFD, which was the first to approach the Supreme Court seeking intervention in Manipur days after the violence began, held a press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday reiterating the demand of the Kuki-Zomi community to impose President's Rule in the State and initiate the process of creating a separate administration.

The MTFD urged the Manipur government to ensure that the mortal remains of tribals killed by "Meitei extremists," which are lying at the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences and the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences, be kept intact and that their identification be conducted on a priority basis.

**Taking a stand:** Tribals from Manipur participating in a protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Wednesday. R.V. MOORTHY

### Weapons taken

The outfit alleged that the violence against the Kuki-Zomi-Mizo-Hmar communities in Manipur was being perpetrated by extremist Meitei groups like Arambai Tenggol and Meetei Leepun, who they said were "allowed" to steal weapons from strongholds of State security forces in the Imphal Valley. The MTFD said that Kuki-Zomi villagers have been using handmade weapons and ammunition and a few licensed guns to defend themselves.

MTFD general secretary W.L. Hanzsing said that Manipur has been seeing "polarisation politics" only after the N. Biren Singh government came to power."

Mr. Hanzsing alleged that the surrendered Meitei insurgents were being absorbed into the Arambai Tenggol and Meetei Leepun. They were leading them in the violence against the Kuki-Zomi-Mizo-Hmar groups.

## Do not block relief material: Biren Singh

**The Hindu Bureau**
GUWAHATI

Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh urged people not to violate curfew restrictions and block roads, affecting the free movement of relief material for inmates in relief camps and the transportation and movement of security personnel for meeting security threats from illegal armed groups in conflict areas.

"Such roadblocks are increasing the hardship of our already traumatised people in relief camps," he said.

He also appealed to all people concerned to return and surrender the arms and ammunition snatched from the armed police battalions to the nearest police station or battalion at the earliest.

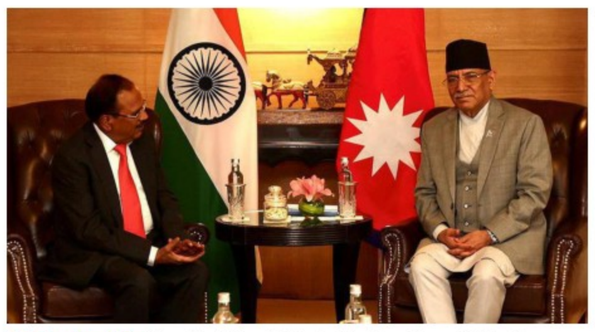
# Nepal's PM to hold talks with Modi today, likely to sign pacts on energy, trade

**Kallol Bhattacherjee**
NEW DELHI

Nepal and India will sign several agreements during the four-day visit of Nepalese Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' that began on Wednesday.

Speaking at a public reception organised by the Embassy of Nepal, the visiting leader highlighted business ties between the two sides. He said that he would engage the leading Indian business houses and hold an official meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Nepal had suffered economically during the global epidemic like many other countries. But there has been gradual improvement in the economic condition in Nepal since my government has taken charge. Our foreign currency reserve has increased and foreign remittances from Nepalese citizens living abroad has also increased. Our exchanges with India in the fields of employment and investment will be my focus," said Mr. Prachanda.



**Strategic visit:** Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' with NSA Ajit Doval on Wednesday. REUTERS

He came to power for the third time on December 26, 2022. A former Maoist guerrilla leader, Mr. Prachanda had been projecting a pro-business image.

### Large delegation

Mr. Prachanda was received at the Indira Gandhi International Airport by Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi. The Nepalese leader is accompanied by a large delegation, including Finance Minister Prakash Sharan Mahat and Foreign Minister Narayan Prasad Saud.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval called on Mr. Prachanda before the public reception.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Dahal announced that "several agreements will be signed during the visit".

It is understood that several private energy producers in India had taken a keen interest in developing hydropower projects in Nepal. India served as the "country partner" in the April Power Summit held in Nepal. India has been active in pushing several large projects like the Arun III hydropower project and the Gorakhpur-Butwal 400 kV cross-border line. The bilateral discussion may also take up cultural ties.

## NIA seizes explosives in PLFI terror funding case

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The NIA, along with the Jharkhand police, seized explosives, arms and ammunition, in the People's Liberation Front of India (PLFI) terror funding case.

The seizures were made from Jharkhand's Khunti, Gumla and Simdega districts on the basis of purported disclosures by PLFI "supremo" Dinesh Gope, who was arrested in New Delhi on May 21. Earlier, the NIA had seized a large cache of arms and ammunition from a forest in Gumla. The NIA and the police on Monday seized about 62.3 kg of gelatin and 732 rounds of 5.56 mm ammunition in Khunti.

"The same day, one pistol, 11 rounds of 5.56 mm ammunition and 30 rounds of .303 ammunition were seized from Kisni village in Kamdara area of Gumla... subsequently, on Tuesday, two IEDs were also seized from the forest hill of Mahuatoli... in Simdega," said the agency. On May 26, a search team had seized 1,245 rounds of 7.62 mm and 271 rounds of 5.56 mm ammunition.

# Jaishankar to meet Lavrov, Qin during BRICS summit

**Suhasini Haidar**
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar left early on Wednesday for a week-long visit to South Africa and Namibia, beginning with his attendance at the BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) Foreign Ministers' meeting in Cape Town.

The FMs will finalise the agenda for the BRICS summit in August, with plans to expand the grouping and discuss a "BRICS currency", seen as a counter to the U.S. dollar, and meant to circumvent western sanctions against Russia.

"Besides attending the meeting, [Mr. Jaishankar] will also hold a bilateral meeting with his South African counterpart Naledi Pandor. He will call on the President of South Africa and is expected to hold bilateral meetings with other BRICS Foreign Ministers and participating 'Friends of BRICS' Ministers from other countries," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement on Wednesday. The "Friends of BRICS" or "BRICS Plus" conference on Friday will include 15 Foreign Ministers from Africa and the Global South.

S. Jaishankar

The importance of the meetings in South Africa can be gauged by the fact that Mr. Jaishankar left Delhi hours before Nepal Prime Minister Pushp Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" arrived for the first official visit of his tenure on Wednesday.

### Seeking consensus

In Cape Town, Mr. Jaishankar will meet with Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov at the conference.

Apart from discussing the modalities of the SCO summit on July 4, this will be an opportunity for the External Affairs Minister to attempt to convince his Chinese and Russian counterparts to agree to a consensus statement at this year's G-20 summit to be held in New Delhi in September. Efforts to bring them on board on a joint statement failed at both the G-20 Finance and Foreign Ministers' meetings in India earlier this year.

With the SCO now moving to a virtual format, it will be left to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make similar efforts at the BRICS summit to be held in Durban from August 22 to 24, where Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend in person.

During the conference, Mr. Jaishankar is expected to stress on India's priorities for the Global South, including mitigating the economic impact of the Ukraine war, as well as the importance of territorial sovereignty and cooperation against terrorism.

As BRICS is mainly an economic engagement, all eyes will be on whether the BRICS FMs agree to move forward with the plan for a BRICS currency initiative that would propose an alternative currency based on gold, commodities and critical minerals.

## Bhadra held in Bengal school jobs scam case

**Shiv Sahay Singh**
KOLKATA

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Sujay Krishna Bhadra alias '*Kalighater Kaku* (Uncle from Kalighat)' in the West Bengal school job scam case. Mr. Bhadra, who was being investigated for his alleged role in the scam, appeared before the ED on Tuesday and was questioned for over 12 hours before he was arrested late in the night. Sources said that Mr. Bhadra was not cooperating with the investigation and was trying to mislead the probe.

On May 20, the ED searched different houses of Mr. Bhadra in Kolkata.

The name of a mysterious 'Uncle from Kalighat' had cropped up a few months ago from the accused in a recruitment scam who were arrested by the investigating agencies. Mr. Bhadra came forward and spoke to the media on several occasions.

Mr. Bhadra was remanded in 14-day ED custody.

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

**NIT No.03:** Tender Notice No. 04/SE(P-C,N&EZ)/GHMC/2023-2024/3rd call, Dt. 31.05.2023; Name of the work: **"Construction of High level bridge connecting at Chaderghat on Musi river"**; Estimate Amount / ECV: **Rs. 4200.00 Lakhs; Start Date / Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids:** Start date: 01.06.2023 @ 04.00 PM, Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 08.06.2023 @ 04.00 PM; **Name & Address officer Cell No.:** O/o. Superintending Engineer, (Projects-C,N&EZ), GHMC, 9989930408.
Further details can be seen at 'e' Procurement @ **www.tender.telangana.gov.in.** or can be contact Office of the Superintending Engineer (P-C,N&EZ), GHMC in office working hours.
**Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Projects-C,N&EZ), GHMC**
DIPR R.O.No.2556-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2023-24 Dt. 31.05.2023

**OFFICE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ZILA PARISHAD CHURU**
email:-sbmgchuru@gmail.com
No. एफ 5 ( )जिप//SBM(G)/ 23-24/267-72 Date:- 19-5-2023
**Notice Inviting Bid No.01/2023-24**
Bid for (1) Supply of Dustbin 100ltr Dual Bin Stand Estimated Value Rs. 349.20 Lacs. (2) Supply of Pushcart with 4 Bins Estimated Value Rs. 31.78 Lacs. (3) Containerized Tricycle Rickshaw With 6 Bins Estimated Value Rs. 282.80 Lacs. Are Invited From Interested Bidders up to 05.00 PM Dated 09-06-2023. Other Particulars of the bid may be visited on the Procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.
NIB No. ZCR2324A0087
UBN No. ZCR2324GLOB00186
UBN No. ZCR2324GLOB00188
UBN No. ZCR2324GLOB00189
मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी एवं सचिव डी.डब्ल्यू.एस.एम. जिला परिषद् चूरू
DIPR/C/7544/2023

**JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED**
**Office of The Superintending Engineer (TW),**
Old Power House Premises, Near Ram Mandir,
Bani Park, Jaipur-302006,TELE FAX NO.0141-2201022
Email: setw@jvvnl.org
E-Tender Notice
Online bids are hereby invited in two parts (Techno-commercial bid and Price bid) from eligible bidders for the following works. (1) Supply, erection, installation, testing and commissioning of material/ equipment for construction of 33 KV overhead Line on Lattice Tower including associated work for release of 2 Nos. 33 KV PHED connections for Isherda Dam on turnkey basis under AEN(O&M) Chauth-ka-Barwara of Sawai Madhopur Circle against TN-542 UBN(VVN2324WLOB00096). (2) Supply, erection, installation, testing and commissioning of material/ equipment for work of shifting of 33 KV & 11 KV overhead line passing over Saipau Bypass under AEN(O&M) Saipau of Dholpur Circle on turnkey basis against TN-543 UBN( VVN2324WSOB00097). For further details regarding Works, Tender Notifications & Specifications please visit website http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://www.sppp.rajasthan. gov.in & http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl
JPR 2808 (2023) **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (TW)**
Raj.samwad/C/23/3191 **For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507**

**INDIAN RAILWAYS**
**RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION, TENDER NOTICE**
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Railway Electrification, Madurai Jn-625016 for and on behalf of the president of India invites ONLINE tenders for the under mentioned works as per tender notice given in our e- tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The Tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tender will be accepted. All documents to support fulfillment of eligibility criteria and any other document required to be submitted should be scanned and uploaded along with the tender. It is the responsibility of Tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) to obtain Class-III Digital Signature Certificates for participating e-tendering.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Tender Notice Number and date | **RE/MDU/Gr.271A/MNM TSS/OT-18 dated 20.05.2023** |
| 2 | Name of work | Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 110/25kV Single Phase AC, 50 Hz, Traction Sub Stations (TSS), Feeding Post, Split Capacitor banks and 25kV Feeder Lines at Manamadurai |
| 3 | Estimate Value | **Rs. 2,35,61,138.67/-** |
| 4 | Tender Closing Date and Time | 14.06.2023 15:00hrs |
| 5 | Web Address | **http://www.ireps.gov.in** |

Complete details of the above tender are given on the e-portal **"www.ireps.gov.in"**. The online bids for tenders floated through the above portal are required to be digitally signed.
**Note:** It is the responsibility of the tenderers to check any Corrigendum is issued for any correction; deletion or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website and the same shall be taken into account while uploading the tender. For further details please visit website **"www.ireps.gov.in"**
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

**कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग संभाग-प्रथम, उदयपुर**
क्रमांक:- डी-ACE/NIT/2023-24/D-98 दिनांक : 17.5.2023
**निविदा संख्या-04/2023-24**
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से भवन कार्य हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के एए श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कुल 1 (एक) भवन कार्य के लिए ई- प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रकिया से ऑन लाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

| | |
|---|---|
| कार्य का नाम | भवन निर्माण कार्य - कुल 1 (एक) कार्य |
| निविदा की कुल लागत | राशि रु. 769.00 लाख |
| ऑनलाईन निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तारीख | 29.05.2023 प्रातः 9:30 बजे से 19.06.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक |
| ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की तारीख | 20.06.2023 सायं 4.00 बजे से |

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in व sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाइन सम्पादित की जावेगी।
NIB- PWD2324A0497 UBN- PWD2324WLOB02170
(अशोक कुमार शर्मा)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. संभाग- प्रथम, उदयपुर
DIPR/C/7424/2023

**OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION AJMER**
Phone No. 0145-2624748 Fax No. 0145-2627671
No. F. ( )/Ar.AJM/2023-2024/2471-2520 Date: 12.5.23
**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS**
Following bids are invited Interested bidders submit their bids online up to 05.06.2023. Others particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)

| NIT No. | Brief Description of works |
|---|---|
| 27/2023-24 | Construction of RCC OHSR & Providing, Laying, Jointing, Testing & Commissioning of Rising main and distribution pipe line at village Shokli, & Madhopura, Gram Panchayat Shokliya including interconnections with existing system, GP-Shokliya in P.S.-Sarwar, Distt-Ajmer, MLA Constituency-Kekri, under jurisdiction, Assistant Engineer, PHED Sub. Div. Sarwar. (Estimated cost of work-Rs. 255.61 Lac). UBN No. PHE2324WSOB02144 |
| 28/2023-24 | Construction of RCC OHSR & Providing, Laying, Jointing, Testing & Commissioning of Rising main and distribution pipe line including interconnections with existing system at village Bajta, GP-Bajta, P.S.-Sawar, Distt-Ajmer, MLA Constituency-Kekri, under jurisdiction Assistant Engineer PHED Sub. Div. Kekri. (Estimated cost of work-Rs. 286.92 Lac). UBN No. PHE2324WSOB02145 |
| 29/2023-24 | Construction of RCC OHSR & Replacement of old, deeped, polluted, demaged distribution pipe pipe line including interconnections with existing system at Piped water supply scheme Para, Village Para, GP-Para, P.S.-Sawar, Distt,Ajmer, MLA Constituency-Kekri, under jurisdiction Assistant Engineer PHED Sub. Div. Kekri. (Estimated cost of work-Rs. 287.88 Lac). UBN No. PHE2324WSOB02146 |
| 30/2023-24 | Construction of RCC OHSR & improvement of Rising main and distribution Pipe line at village Chitiwas, Pratappura and Laxmipura including interconnections with existing system, GP-Chitiwas, P.S.-Sawar, Distt-Ajmer, MLA Constituency-Kekri, under jurisdiction Assistant Engineer PHED Sub-Div. Kekri. (Estimated cost of work. Rs. 314.70 Lacs) UBN No. PHE2324WSOB02147 |

NIB No. PHE2324A0936
(Mukesh Goyal),
Additional Chief Engineer PHED,
Region, Ajmer
DIPR/C/7441/2023

**RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF KNOWLEDGE TECHNOLOGIES-BASAR**
Basar, Nirmal (Dist.), Telangana, India-504107
**ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR 6-YEAR INTEGRATED B.TECH, PROGRAM 2023-24**
**No. 4/RGUKT (TS)/B.Tech./Admissions/2023 Date: 01.06.2023**
Online applications are invited from eligible candidates for Admission into Six Year Integrated B.Tech. Program for the academic year 2023-24. Interested candidates can apply for admission online through TS online centre/ Meeseva/University website **www.rgukt.ac.in.**
Candidates can submit online applications from **05.06.2023**. The last date for receiving online applications is **19.06.2023**. For more details visit **www.rgukt.ac.in.**
DIPR R.O. No. : 233-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24, Date: 30-05-2023 **Sd/- Director**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER OFD DIV.II**
**R.M.C. C.A.D. KOTA**
Tel. Office. 0744-2323104, Email:cadxenofd2rmc@rajasthan.gov.in
No:-E.E.OFD II RMC/2023-24/287-295 Date:- 17.05.2023
**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERING No.02/2023-24**
On behalf of Governor of Rajasthan E-Tenders are invited from Able / Eligible Class category or equivalent contractors/firms registered in CAD/Water Resources Department and State Government/Other State Government/ Authorized organizations of Central Government/CPWD/Post and telegraph department/ Railway etc. for the 3 Nos. of works of Construction of lined Field Channels of Chambal CAD Kota amounting to Rs. 590.73 Lac upto 06:00 PM dated 16.06.2023. The tender documents & other details may be downloaded and uploaded from http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/www.dipronline.org/ http://www.sppp/raj.nic.in websites.
**UBN:-CDK2324WSOB00059/CDK2324WSOB00060/ CDK2324WSOB00061**
**Executive Engineer**
DIPR/C/7540/2023 **OFD Div. II RMC, CAD, Kota**

**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**
**Construction Organisation**
**E-Tender Notice No. E/CN/ERS/TN/02/2023-24 Dated 29.05.2023**
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Ernakulam Junction-682016 invites E-tenders for the work mentioned below as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderer/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted. The Bid Security should be paid through online payment gateway available on the website by the way of multiple banks net banking, debit and credit card.

| Item no. | Tender No. | Name of work |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | E-320-CN-ERS-OT-OHE-46 | Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Traction overhead equipment including modifications to the existing overhead equipment with 25 kV A.C. supply between JOKATTE (incl)- THOKUR (excl), in connection with doubling of track between JOKATTE-THOKUR section of Palakkad Division of Southern Railway. |
| 2 | E-320-CN-ERS-OT-OHE-47 | Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Traction overhead equipment including modifications to the existing overhead equipment with 25 kV A.C. supply to additional sick line & Stabling line at MEMU shed and Yard modification at Kollam of Thiruvananthapuram Division of Southern Railway.' |

| Sl. no. | Tender No. | Approx. Cash Value in Lakhs (₹) | Bid Security (₹) | Date of Opening of Tender | Completion period in months |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | E-320-CN-ERS-OT-OHE-46 | 396.92 | 348500.00 | 20.06.2023 at 12.00 Hrs | 12 Months |
| 2 | E-320-CN-ERS-OT-OHE-47 | 108.22 | 204100.00 | 20.06.2023 at 12.00 Hrs | 06 Months |

Tenderers can submit Bid security in the form of bank guarantee also.
For further details visit internet site **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact office of Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway Ernakulam Junction 682 016.
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

**DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM**
**GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI**
**VIKAS BHAWAN-II, 2nd FLOOR, 'C' WING, UPPER BELA ROAD, DELHI-110054**
**Advt. No. 02**
In continuation of earlier advertisement dated 22.04.2023 for filling up of the following post at Delhi Institute of Hotel Management & Catering Technology, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi-110024 on direct recruitment basis. The last date of the receipt of the application has been extended up to 14.06.2023. The details are as under:-

| S. No. | Name of Post | No. of Post | Pay Level as per 7th CPC | Category of Posts |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | PRINCIPAL | 01 (UR) | Pay Level-13 Rs.1,23,100-2,15,900/- | "A" |

For detailed information and application form log on to **http://www.dihmct.in**
Applications for the post of Principal in hard copy should reach the **Department of Tourism, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Vikas Bhawan-II, 2nd Floor, C-Wing, Upper Bela Road, Delhi-110054 latest by 14.06.2023 upto 6.00 P.M.**
The competent authority reserves the right to cancel/republish the advertisement for any or all of the above posts, without assigning any reason.
sd/-
Pro-Term Member Secretary (BOG)
**DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0055/23-24**

**JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004
No.: JDA/EE-13/2023-24/D-739 Date : 29.05.2023
**NOTICE INVITING BID**
**NIB No.: JDA/EE-13/04/2023-24**
Online Bids are invited up-to 06:00 PM of **20.06.2023** for **"Construction of Link Road From Jagatpura to Bassi upto GSB Level in Zone-13, JDA Jaipur."** The last date for applying bid and making online payment on JDA portal is up-to 06:00 PM of **20.06.2023.** The Estimated cost of NIB is **Rs. 652.18 Lacs.** Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at our office or the state public procurement portal website **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** and **www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in**
**UBN No.: JDA2324WLOB00156**
**To participate in the bid, bidder must :**
**1.** Participate in Tender & Deposit Payment on 'Online Tender Participation' Portal of JDA at **https://jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/jda** or by Single-Sign-On at http://service.jaipurjda.org.
**2.** Submit e-Bid on on 'e-Procurement Portal' of GOR at **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**
Raj.Samwad/C/2023-24/3185 **Executive Engineer-13**

## INBRIEF

### Now, Ahmednagar to be renamed 'Ahilyanagar'

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Wednesday announced that Ahmednagar city would be renamed 'Ahilyanagar' after the 18th century Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar, famed for her piety and benign administration. Mr. Shinde's announcement came on the 298th birth anniversary of Ahilyabai Holkar, who had proved to be an extremely able ruler in the erstwhile Malwa province. The renaming of Ahmednagar follows the Shinde-Fadnavis government's move in February this year to rename Aurangabad as 'Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar' and Osmanabad as 'Dharashiv.' The demand for renaming Ahmednagar was started by BJP leader and MLC Gopichand Padalkar.

### French company Alstom to build 100 Vande Bharat trains

French rail company, Alstom will manufacture 100 aluminium bodied Vande Bharat trains, which will be lighter in weight as compared to a stainless steel body with sleeper facility, after bidding the lowest for the tender at a price of ₹150.9 crore per train, as compared to the average cost of ₹120 crore per train. The train is pegged to have a speed capability of 200 km per hour. The order is in addition to the 120 trains to be manufactured by Russian TMH and Indian public sector undertaking RVNL consortium and the 80 trains by the Titagarh Wagons and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) consortium.

### India joins global laboratory network for vaccine tests

India has joined the Centralised Laboratory Network (CLN), which has 15 partner facilities in 13 countries that works to test vaccines which can be used during pandemics and epidemic disease outbreak. CLN is a part of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and the Network is the largest global group which has standardised methods and materials for testing. CEPI-funded network also aims to identify the most promising vaccine candidates rapidly and accurately against emerging infectious diseases and the expanded network is working at supporting sustainable regional outbreak preparedness infrastructure.

### Three terrorists arrested in Poonch sector in J&K

Three terrorists were arrested on Wednesday, as the Army foiled an infiltration bid in the Pir Panjal valley's Poonch district. "In a joint operation by Indian Army along with the police, 3-4 terrorists were intercepted on Line of Control in Poonch sector while attempting to cross the fence on the night of May 30-31, taking advantage of the bad weather and heavy rains," the Army said. A defence spokesman said the terrorists were also in possession of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) with a power of almost 10 kg. The area is cordoned off and a search operation is in progress.

# OTT platforms mandated to show anti-tobacco warnings

If the streaming apps fail to comply, a notice shall be issued to explain such failure, says Centre's notification; industry executives complain that they were not consulted before the decision

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**
**Aroon Deep**
NEW DELHI

It's now mandatory for over-the-top (OTT) streaming platforms to display anti-tobacco warnings as seen in movies screened in theatres and TV, as per a Union Health Ministry notification on Wednesday amending the rules under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2004.

OTT platforms like Amazon Prime Video, Netflix, Hotstar and ZEE5 did not respond to *The Hindu's* request for comment, but an industry executive said that the companies would collectively reach out to the government to articulate their view that static smoking warnings on small screens for content that is explicitly being requested by users may not be appropriate.

"The streaming industry was not consulted before the notification," the executive said.

OTT platforms will be required to display anti-tobacco health spots at the beginning and middle of the programme. REUTERS

**Prominent warnings**

Meanwhile, as per the notification released on World No Tobacco Day, publishers of online curated content displaying tobacco products, or their use will be required to display anti-tobacco health spots at the beginning and middle of the programme.

They shall also be required to exhibit an anti-tobacco health warning as a prominent static message at the bottom of the screen when tobacco products or their use are displayed during the programme.

It added that the anti-tobacco health warning message as specified in clause (b) of sub-rule (1) shall be legible and readable, with font in black colour on white background and with the warnings 'Tobacco causes cancer' or 'Tobacco kills'.

Besides warning messages, health spots and audio-visual disclaimers will have to be in the same language as used in the show.

"Additionally, if the publisher of online curated content fails to comply with the provisions, an inter-ministerial committee shall issue notice giving reasonable opportunity to explain such failure and make appropriate modification in the content," the notification said.

The expression "online curated content" means any curated catalogue of audio-visual content, other than news and current affairs content, which is owned by, licensed to, or contracted to be transmitted by a publisher of online curated content, and made available on demand, including but not limited through subscription, over the internet or computer networks, and includes films, audiovisual programmes, television programmes, serials, series and other such content.

# Treatment worth ₹61,501 cr. provided under PM-JAY scheme

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

**The scheme being implemented by the NHA provides health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year**

Cancer treatment, emergency care, orthopaedic and urology (kidney-related ailments) top the tertiary care specialities treatment availed by beneficiaries under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) till date, as per data released by the Health Ministry on Wednesday. The yojana has now recorded five crore hospital admissions amounting to ₹61,501 crore under the scheme.

Approximately 49% of Ayushman card recipients are women and over 48% of total authorised hospital admissions under the AB PM-JAY scheme have been availed by women, noted the data.

"Also, over 141 medical procedures under the PM-JAY are exclusively earmarked for women," it said, adding that AB PM-JAY beneficiaries can avail treatment corresponding to a total of 1,949 procedures under 27 different specialities The flagship scheme being implemented by the National Health Authority (NHA) provides health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to 12 crore beneficiary families.

The AB PM-JAY is being implemented in 33 States and Union Territories except Delhi, Odisha, and West Bengal. Till date, 23.39 crore beneficiaries have been verified and issued Ayushman cards for availing free treatment under the scheme.

The PM-JAY empanelled hospital network consists of 28,351 hospitals, including 12,824 private hospitals, across the country.

A senior Health Ministry official said the AB PM-JAY was launched with the vision to achieve Universal Health Coverage.

# Cabinet nod for second phase of CITIIS programme

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

**The project aims at promoting integrated waste management and climate-oriented reform actions**

The Union government on Wednesday approved the second phase of the City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain (CITIIS) project, a programme under the ambit of the Smart Cities Mission, which aims to promote integrated waste management and climate-oriented reform actions.

The CITIIS 2.0 will be implemented in 18 cities which would be selected based on a competition.

The programme, which was approved at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to support competitively selected projects promoting circular economy with a focus on integrated waste management at the city level, climate-oriented reform actions at the State level, and institutional strengthening and knowledge dissemination at the national level.

It would span over a period of four years from 2023-2027 and has been conceived and would be implemented in partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the European Union (EU), and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).

The funding for CITIIS 2.0 would include a loan of ₹1,760 crore from AFD and KfW, split equally, and a technical assistance grant of ₹106 crore from the European Union.

The CITIIS 2.0 has three major components which are financial and technical support for developing projects focused on building climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation in up to 18 smart cities, and interventions at centre, State and city levels to further climate governance.

# Govt. calls for applications on semiconductor development

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Union government will invite applications for setting up semiconductor and display fabrication units in India from Thursday onwards, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said in a press release on Wednesday.

"The applications will be received by India Semiconductor Mission, the designated nodal agency entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the Modified Semicon India Programme for development of semiconductors and display manufacturing ecosystem in India," the Ministry said.

The Centre will receive applications until December 2024.

The Semicon India Programme was launched in December 2021 amid government efforts to boost domestic electronics manufacturing. ₹76,000 crore has been provided as an outlay for the scheme, the government said.

# World's largest grain storage plan: Centre to implement pilot project in 10 districts

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the constitution and empowerment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) for facilitation of the "world's largest grain storage plan in cooperative sector" by convergence of various schemes of the Ministries of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Food Processing Industries.

A government statement said that to ensure timely and uniform implementation of the plan in a professional manner, the Ministry of Cooperation would implement a pilot project in at least 10 selected districts of different States.

The committee will be chaired by Cooperation and Home Minister Amit Shah. It will lay guidelines for creation of infrastructure such as godowns, for agriculture and allied purposes, at selected 'viable' blocks through PACS, so that they will be able to get fair price for their grains."

Farmers could sell their crops to PACS by receiving some advance payment at the Minimum Support Price. NAGARA GOPAL

Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS).

The plan would be implemented by utilising the available outlays provided under the identified schemes of the respective Ministries.

**Fair price**

Welcoming the decision, Mr. Shah said in a tweet, "Lack of agricultural storage capacity leads to wastage of food grains and farmers are forced to sell their crops at low prices. With this decision, farmers will now get modern grain storage facilities in their

He said PACS were an important pillar of the rural economy. "With this plan, the country will get food security and crores of farmers associated with cooperatives will be benefited," he said.

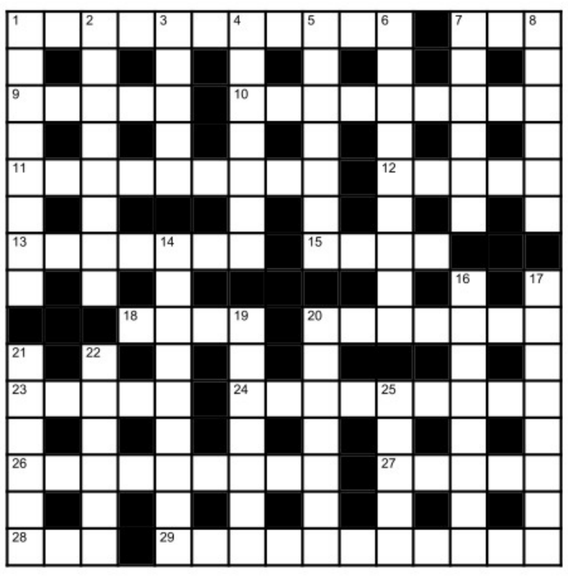
The statement said that farmers could sell their crops to PACS by receiving some advance payment at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), and get the balance after the PACS sold the food grains in the market.

## TH CROSSWORD + 13880

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



**Across**

**1** Greenback - currency note in front of India Gate, perhaps (3,8)
**7** Bit crowded inside stadium (3)
**9** Portions - orders on line (5)
**10** Turtles overturn crop on land (9)
**11** One in mood to dance - right on top of Kremlin (5,4)
**12** Arabs representing 5, say (5)
**13** Investigation done, in vain by self-seeker (7)
**15** I do like a bit of a crush (4)
**18** Girl's on second row (4)
**20** Greek maiden drowning in river retrieved by a sprite (7)
**23** Down in value - I de-rated it (5)
**24** Condition bad initially, pouring water to clean (9)
**26** Happy to stay outside home in Europe, say (9)
**27** Arab country without borders (5)
**28** Admission letter, they call it (3)
**29** Flat without walls exposes those who wash the dirty linen (11)

**Down**

**1** Beat work in enclosed surroundings (8)
**2** Talk without let-up - preacher not upset? (6,2)
**3** Reduce, reduce top load on the German city (5)
**4** Chooses to stay away, outpost shifted (4,3)
**5** National standards organisation in India - real mess inside (7)
**6** Last one, do make it attractive (9)
**7** Endeavour to save one pound, it could be felt (6)
**8** Admit summary seen regularly gives anxiety... (6)
**14** ...just a self admission of bias (9)
**16** Registers gifts, one can return inside (8)
**17** Fetters in each ground supported by poles (8)
**19** Representation put forward by Paul, essentially (7)
**20** Struggle and get right in, it's allowed (7)
**21** Everyone in the outskirts of Puducherry is very good (6)
**22** Handsome lad completely undressed - lady won't miss (6)
**25** Fank makes a hole in the nozzle (5)

## SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | | | | 9 | | | 8 | |
| | | 8 | 1 | 7 | | 6 | | 5 |
| 6 | 4 | | 2 | | 8 | | 7 | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | |
| | | 3 | | 8 | | 4 | | |
| | | | | | | | | 6 |
| | 6 | | 5 | | 1 | | 4 | 9 |
| 3 | | 4 | | 6 | 9 | 7 | | |
| | 9 | | | 3 | | | | 1 |

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**Solution to previous puzzle**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | I | M | M | U | N | E | S | Y | S | T | E | M | |
| J | | T | | E | | E | | I | | C | | V | | V |
| A | L | B | U | M | | M | A | K | E | A | M | O | V | E |
| I | | E | | E | | A | | K | | R | | K | | R |
| A | G | A | I | N | S | T | | I | N | A | M | E | S | S |
| L | | T | | T | | O | | M | | B | | | | E |
| A | B | S | C | O | N | D | S | | U | S | E | R | S | |
| I | | M | | | | E | | S | | | | E | | A |
| | T | E | P | I | D | | S | H | E | E | P | P | E | N |
| S | | | | C | | C | | A | | X | | L | | I |
| O | A | T | M | E | A | L | | W | I | T | N | E | S | S |
| A | | A | | D | | A | | A | | R | | N | | E |
| P | A | R | T | T | I | M | E | R | | U | N | I | T | E |
| S | | O | | E | | U | | M | | D | | S | | D |
| | U | T | T | A | R | P | R | A | D | E | S | H | | |

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 2 |
| 8 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 2 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 9 |
| 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| 3 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 1 |
| 7 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| 9 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| 6 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 7 |
| 5 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 6 |

## FAITH

### Cloud that rains blessings

Mantras in the Apratiratha section, Krishna Yajur Veda, Taittiriya samhita can be interpreted as referring to various archa (idol) forms of Lord Narayana, said V.S. Karunakaracharier in a discourse. The ninth mantra is in Trishtup meter. Words like Indra, Varuna, Aditya, Marut etc are used in the mantra, and each of them can be seen in the context of an archa form of the Lord. Indra fulfils the desires of people. Sri Vaishnavas, who have surrendered to the Lord, desire to worship His auspicious qualities. Lord Ranganatha is a cloud that rains His blessings on them and fulfils this desire. Hence the word Vrishnah in the mantra also refers to Lord Ranganatha. There is a perfect example to show how Ranganatha facilitates the desire of His devotees to worship Him in many ways.

Thirumangai Azhvar wanted to bring Nammazhvar's idol from Azhvar Thirunagari to Srirangam, for the Adhyayana utsava. He prayed to Lord Ranganatha to make this possible. The Lord asked him to take His palanquin to bring the Nammazhvar idol with due honours. Because the palanquin was taken away to fetch the Nammazhvar idol, there was no palanquin in the Srirangam temple. So the temple officials carried the Ranganatha utsava idol from the mandapa to the sanctum in their hands. So eager was the Lord to grant Thirumangai Azhvar his desire to bring Nammazhvar to Srirangam, that He was prepared to even give up His palanquin for the purpose.

Even today during adhyayana festival, when Thiruneduntandakam is recited, the Ranganatha utsava idol is carried in the hands of those who serve Him in temple. This is to remind us of His kindness to Thirumangai Azhvar.

**BRASILIA**

## Brazil lawmakers vote to limit demarcation of Indigenous land

AFP

Brazil's Lower House of Congress approved a legislation that would limit expanded demarcations of Indigenous lands. It states that reserves can only be on land occupied by Indigenous people at the time of the promulgation of the constitution in 1988. Indigeneous people protested the move in Sao Paulo. AFP

**BERLIN**

## Germany orders closure of four of five Russian consulates

GETTY IMAGES

Berlin ordered four of Moscow's five consulates in Germany to close, the latest escalation of tensions sparked by the war in Ukraine. The move comes after Russia put a limit of 350 on the number of German government officers allowed in Russia. Moscow called Germany's decision "ill thought out" and vowed a response. AFP.

**ZVECAN**

## NATO-led peacekeepers step up security after Kosovo clashes

AP

NATO-led peacekeepers stepped up security around a town hall in northern Kosovo, where hundreds of ethnic Serbs gathered again at the scene of clashes earlier this week. Hundreds rallied outside Zvecan's town hall on Wednesday for a third consecutive day and held aloft a huge Serbian flag that stretched over 200 metres. AFP

**KHARTOUM**

## Sudan Army quits truce talks with RSF for not honouring their word

AFP

The Sudanese Army suspended its participation in U.S. and Saudi-brokered ceasefire talks, accusing its paramilitary foes of failing to honour their commitments. The Army walked out "because the rebels have never implemented a single one of the provisions of a short-term ceasefire," a government official said. AFP

# North Korea spy satellite launch fails as Chollima-1 rocket falls into the sea

Pyongyang says its space agency will investigate what it calls 'the serious defects revealed' by the launch and conduct a second launch as soon as possible; South's military says it salvaged an object presumed to be part of the crashed rocket

**Associated Press**
SEOUL

North Korea's attempt to put its first spy satellite into space failed on Wednesday in a setback to leader Kim Jong-Un's push to boost his military capabilities as tensions with the U.S. and South Korea rise.

After an unusually quick admission of failure, North Korea vowed to conduct a second launch after it learns what went wrong. It suggests Mr. Kim remains determined to expand his weapons arsenal and apply more pressure on Washington and Seoul while diplomacy is stalled.

**Launch residue:** An object suspected to be part of North Korea's spy satellite salvaged by Seoul's military in the Yellow Sea. AFP

South Korea and Japan briefly urged residents to take shelter after the launch.

The South Korean military said it was salvaging an object presumed to be part of the crashed North Korean rocket in waters 200 km west of the southwestern island of Eocheongdo. Later, the Defence Ministry released photos of a white, metal cylinder it described as a suspected rocket part.

A satellite launch by North Korea is a violation of UN Security Council resolutions that ban the country from conducting any launch based on ballistic technology. .

### 'Abnormal flight'

The newly developed Chollima-1 rocket was launched at 6:37 a.m. at the North's Sohae Satellite Launching Ground in the northwest, carrying the Malligyong-1 satellite. The rocket crashed off the Korean Peninsula's western coast after it lost thrust following the separation of its first and second stages, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said.

South Korea's military said the rocket had "an abnormal flight" before it fell in the water. Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters that no object was believed to have reached space. North Korean media said the country's space agency will investigate what it calls "the serious defects revealed" by the launch and conduct a second launch as soon as possible.

# UAE withdraws from U.S.-led maritime coalition in the Gulf

**Agence France-Presse**
ABU DHABI

The United Arab Emirates has withdrawn from a U.S.-led maritime coalition tasked with securing tense Gulf waterways that are vital to the global oil trade, it said on Wednesday.

The UAE "withdrew its participation" in the 38-nation Combined Maritime Forces two months ago, a Foreign Ministry statement said, without giving reasons for the move.

"As a result of our ongoing evaluation of effective security cooperation with all partners, two months ago, the UAE withdrew its participation in the Combined Maritime Forces," said the statement carried by the official WAM news agency.

**The UAE 'withdrew its participation' in the 38-nation Combined Maritime Forces 2 months ago**

The Bahrain-headquartered CMF was established in 2001, initially as a partnership between 12 nations. It is active in crucial but troubled Gulf waters where tankers have been seized and attacked in recent months.

A spokesperson for the Combined Maritime Forces said the UAE remains a partner nation, despite putting its participation on hold. "The CMF still includes 38 partner nations, of which the UAE is one," Commander Timothy Hawkins said.

Iran seized two tankers in a week in late April and early May, including one empty ship that was travelling between the UAE ports of Dubai and Fujairah. Iran was also accused of launching a drone attack against an Israeli-owned tanker in November 2022, stoking tensions with the United States. Earlier this month, the U.S. said it was sending reinforcements to the Gulf, which carries at least a third of the world's sea-borne oil, after what it called increasing harassment by Iran.

The commander of the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, Vice-Admiral Brad Cooper, later transited through the Strait of Hormuz in a guided-missile destroyer along with British and French naval commanders.

# Blast in eastern Lebanon kills five

**Associated Press**
DAMASCUS

A blast early on Wednesday at a military base controlled by a Syria-backed Palestinian faction in eastern Lebanon killed five Palestinian militants.

The faction said an Israeli airstrike caused the blast, but that account was disputed by an Israeli official.

A Lebanese military official said there was no airstrike. An official with a regional group allied with the Syrian government, said the explosion was the result of a "human error" that occurred when militants were handling ammunition.

# Musk hails China's 'vitality' during Beijing visit

**Agene France-Presse**
BEIJING

Elon Musk praised China's "vitality and promise" on Wednesday, Beijing said, during a trip to the Chinese capital in which he has met multiple government officials and reportedly declared he will expand his business there.

He met Commerce Minister Wang Wentao on Wednesday, praising "the vitality and potential of China's development", according to a Ministry readout.

Mr. Musk "expressed full confidence in the China market, and was willing to continue deepening mutually beneficial cooperation".

He also said that "China-U.S. relations are not a zero-sum game", it added, and thanked China for "the support and guarantees it provided for Tesla's Shanghai factory during the COVID-19 pandemic".

Mr. Musk has extensive business interests in China and told Foreign Minister Qin Gang on Tuesday his firm was "willing to continue to expand its business in China".

# China warns of risks posed by artificial intelligence

**Associated Press**
BEIJING

China's ruling Communist Party has warned of the risks posed by advances in artificial intelligence while calling for heightened national security measures.

The statement issued after a meeting on Tuesday chaired by party leader and President Xi Jinping underscores the tension between the Chinese government's determination to seize global leadership in cutting-edge technology and concerns about the possible social and political harms of such technologies.

It also followed a warning by scientists and tech industry leaders in the U.S., including high-level executives at Microsoft and Google, about the perils that artificial intelligence poses to humankind.

# Kyiv's 'last warship' destroyed: Russia

**Agence France-Presse**
MOSCOW

Russia on Wednesday claimed it had destroyed the last major warship of the Ukrainian naval forces, which it said was stationed in the southern port of Odesa.

"On May 29, a high-precision strike by the Russian Air Force on a ship anchorage site in the port of Odesa destroyed the last warship of the Ukrainian Navy, the 'Yuri Olefirenko'," the Russian Army said.

AFP was not able to independently confirm the claim.

A spokesperson for the Ukrainian Naval Force declined to comment.

The *Yuri Olefirenko* is a medium-size landing ship for troops and vehicles.

First named *"Kirovograd"*, the ship was renamed in 2016 in honour of a Ukrainian marine killed near Mariupol in 2015.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky decorated its crew in June 2022.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
**TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.**
No.417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai-600008.Phone:28191890/28190259; Fax: 044 -28190636

| Sl. No | Online Tender no. / Rate Contract (RC) No./ item with qty./ Document Cost | Sale Period | Pre bid | Last date Submission | Opening |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Online RC Tender No.E1000/MANN/DME-11MCH/TNMSC/ ENGG/ 2023, dt: 30.05.2023, Various Mannequin to 11 MCH – Rs.5,725/- | 02.06.2023 to 03.07.2023 | 09.06.2023 11.00 AM | 04.07.2023 11.00 AM | 04.07.2023 12.00 Noon |
| 2 | Online RC Tender No.E001/R-Consumables/RC/TNMSC/ MAINT/ 2023, dt: 30.05.2023, Fixing rate contract for Radiotherapy Consumables – Rs.5,725/- | 01.06.2023 to 15.06.2023 | 08.06.2023 11.00 AM | 16.06.2023 11.00 AM | 16.06.2023 12.00 Noon |
| 3 | Online RC Tender No.E1001/LASER/DME-RGGGH/TNMSC/ ENGG/2023, dt: 30.05.2023, Portable Diode Laser for EVLT (1) & Suction Thrombectomy Device Set (1) – Rs.3,435/- | 01.06.2023 to 15.06.2023 | 08.06.2023 11.30 AM | 16.06.2023 11.00 AM | 16.06.2023 12.00 Noon |
| 4 | Online RC Tender No.E1002/US/TNHSRP/TNMSC/ENGG/ 2023, dt: 30.05.2023, Unweighting System (1) – Rs.5,725/- | 1.06.2023 to 15.06.2023 | 08.06.2023 12.00 Noon | 16.06.2023 11.00 AM | 16.06.2023 12.00 Noon |
| 5 | Online RC Tender No.E1003/RFA/TNHSRP/TNMSC/ENGG/ 2023, dt: 30.05.2023, Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (1), Robotic C-arm (1) & RF Ablation Therapy (2) – Rs.5,725/- | 01.06.2023 to 15.06.2023 | 08.06.2023 12.30 PM | 16.06.2023 11.00 AM | 16.06.2023 12.00 Noon |
| 6 | Online RC Tender No.E1004/EMG/TNHSRP/TNMSC/ENGG/ 2023, dt: 30.05.2023, EMG and NCV Study (6) – Rs.5,725/- | 02.06.2023 to 19.06.2023 | 09.06.2023 11.00 AM | 20.06.2023 11.00 AM | 16.06.2023 12.00 Noon |
| 7 | Online RC Tender No.E1005/Laser/TNHSRP/TNMSC/ENGG/ 2023, dt: 30.05.2023, Scanning Laser 2 Unit (4) – Rs.5,725/- | 02.06.2023 to 19.06.2023 | 09.06.2023 11.30 AM | 20.06.2023 11.00 AM | 16.06.2023 12.00 Noon |
| 8 | Online RC Tender No.E1006/PHY/TNHSRP/TNMSC/ENGG/ 2023, dt: 30.05.2023, Virtual Rehabilitation (2), Shock Wave Therapy (2) & Decompression Traction System (2) – Rs.5,725/- | 02.06.2023 to 19.06.2023 | 09.06.2023 12.00 Noon | 20.06.2023 11.00 AM | 16.06.2023 12.00 Noon |
| 9 | Online RC Tender No.E1007/PHY/TNHSRP/TNMSC/ENGG/ 2023, dt: 30.05.2023, Should CPM Unit (4), Isokinetic Equipment (1) & Prosthetic Items (4) – Rs.5,725/- | 05.06.2023 to 20.06.2023 | 12.06.2023 11.00 AM | 21.06.2023 11.00 AM | 21.06.2023 12.00 Noon |
| 10 | Online RC Tender No.E1008/Linen/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt: 30.05.2023, Various Linen Items – Rs.5,725/- | 05.06.2023 to 20.06.2023 | 12.06.2023 11.30 AM | 21.06.2023 11.00 AM | 21.06.2023 12.00 Noon |
| 11 | Online RC Tender No.E939/PRT/NHM/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt: 30.05.2023, Fixing rate contract for printing of various registers and books – Rs.3,435/- | 05.06.2023 to 20.06.2023 | 12.06.2023 12.00 Noon | 21.06.2023 11.00 AM | 21.06.2023 12.00 Noon |

For details visit www.tenders.tn.gov.in and TNMSC website www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in
DIPR/2803/TENDER/2023
General Manager (Equipment)
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

**ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
**Regd. Office: Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022**
CIN:U40102OR2004SGC007553

**TENDER ALERT**

1)**E-Tender Call Notice No.ED-NZ-BLS-03/2023-24:** Bids invited under single stage two-envelop system with e-RA from reputed service providers for Engagement of Jhula and Tower Climbers on contractual basis towards maintenance of different Grid S/S and Lines under Northern Zone, Balasore at an estimated cost of Rs.1,68,03,254/-.

2)**Tender Call Notice No.CPC-09/2023-24:** Bids invited under two part bidding system from reputed manufacturers towards Procurement of Battery Charger (Thyristor Control) with Dropper Diode suitable for 220 V, 350 AH Vented Lead Acid storage battery (Plante Type) for EHT Sub-stations at an estimated cost of Rs.71,49,169/-.

Complete set of bidding documents are available at **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** and OPTCL's official **website: www.optcl.co.in.**

HIPR-14/2023-24
CAD-794
OIPR-04011/11/0039/2324
/optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha

**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**
Chennai Division
E-Tender Notice No.
MAS/EGS/ET/11/2023-2024
dated 30.05.2023
**Tender No.:** ME-29-II-1006RII-2023
**Name of work:** Strengthening of power supply arrangement and pumping facility at Basin Bridge yard and improvement of lighting & ventilation in stations in between Basin Bridge & Ambattur.
**Value of Work:** ₹3,55,06,000/-
Further details regarding the tender may please be viewed from **www.ireps.gov.in**
Sr.Divisional Electrical Engineer/ General/Chennai
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

COCHIN PORT
कोचिन पत्तन प्राधिकरण
Cochin Port Authority
Chief Engineer's Office
Cochin - 682 009
**E-TENDER NOTICE**
No. T9/T-1993/2023-C
Dated: 30.05.2023
Bids are invited online for "Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report, Conducting EIA Study, Providing Project Management Consultancy including Statutory Clearances and O & M Consultancy for the proposed Water Aerodromes at various locations in Lakshadweep Islands, Kochi & other locations in India".
Estimated Cost: ₹ 8 crore
For details, visit:
www.cochinport.gov.in
www.tenderwizard.com/COPT
and www.tenders.gov.in
from 31-05-2023 onwards
Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Ph. 0484-258 2400/2404

**ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2023 (OJEE - 2023)**
*No: OJEE / 235* *DATE: 31-05-2023*
**NOTICE FOR ONLINE APPLICATION FOR 2ND / SPECIAL OJEE - 2023**
The 2nd / Special OJEE for B.Tech., LE-Tech (Diploma), MBA, MCA and B. Pharm will be held in the last week of June, 2023 (26th June to 30th June, 2023).
The Entrance Examination will be conducted in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode (one hour) for all the courses as mentioned above.
Interested candidates are advised to fill up the respective Application Forms online through OJEE website (www.ojee.nic.in) only.
Filling-up of Online Application through OJEE website begins on 1st June, 2023 and will end on 8th June, 2023 (11.00 PM).
Syllabus for B.Tech. course is same as that for JEE MAIN 2023, while syllabus for other courses are same as for OJEE 2023.
Candidates, who have appeared and have rank in JEE MAIN 2023 (for B.TECH) or OJEE - 2023 (for other courses), are not required to appear the 2nd / Special OJEE.
The results (ranks) of 2nd/ Special OJEE shall be used for admission to the vacant seats left over after 1st phase counselling.
Please note that Outside State candidates are not eligible for admission in Government Colleges, but they are eligible for admission in Private Colleges.
For other details, please visit our website: www.ojee.nic.in / www.odishajee.com.
Sd/-
CHAIRMAN, OJEE, Odisha
h-04:
OIPR-14020/11/0003/2324

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
**PUBLIC (PRO.II) DEPARTMENT**
**NOTIFICATION**
Sealed tenders are invited from experienced Helicopter Maintenance Agencies with valid CAR 145 maintenance organisation and CAMO approval from the DGCA

| Sl.No. | DESCRIPTION | DETAILS |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Name of the work | Maintenance of Government Helicopter Bell 412 EP (VT-TNG) including CAMO functions. |
| 2. | Last date for submission of tender | Upto 3.00 P.M. on 15.06.2023 |

The tender schedule and further details can be **downloaded from www.tenders.tn.gov.in** free of cost. Bids received after due date and time will be summarily rejected.
DIPR/ 2787 /TENDER/2023
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (FAC).
" சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

**ANDHRA PRADESH FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**
HO: Sri Venkateswara Arcade, 80/A & 81/A, 6th Lane, Annapurna Nagar, Gorantla, Guntur, AP.
E-mail: vcmd_apfdc@yahoo.co.in, vcmd.apfdcl@gmail.com
**RED SANDERS WOOD SALE (PHASE-XVI) 2023-NOTICE**
Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation Limited hereby notifies the sale of **400.876 Metric Tonnes** of Red Sanders Wood (RSW) through international competitive bidding by way of e-tender-cum-e-auction on **15th June 2023** in the First cycle. The unsold RSW lots, if any, would be put up for sale on **22nd June 2023** in the Second cycle. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has all the necessary statutory approvals for the sale and export of RSW. The details of the sale conditions and related information are available in the following: **http://www.apfdcl.com; http://www.forests.ap.gov.in; http://www.mstcindia.co.in; http://mstcecommerce.com**
Sd/
(N.PRATEEP KUMAR, IFS.,)
Date: 31.05.2023 Vice Chairman and Managing Director

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
**MADURAI HIGHWAYS, PROJECTS CIRCLE**
**TENDER NOTICE**
T.N. No. 2 / 2023 - 24 / SDO, Dated: 29.05.2023
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Scheduled Tender under two cover system through online only** will be received upto **03.07.2023 15.00 hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H), Projects, Madurai Circle for the work of **"Construction of Road Over Bridge** at km.0/2-4 of Thirumangalam Municipality road in lieu of existing LC.No.377 at Railway Km 512 / 400-500 in between **Thirumangalam and Kallikudi Railway Stations"** pertaining to Madurai (H), Projects Division.
Details of work, approximate value of work, **EMD,** availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **07.06.2023** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in.** If any changes/corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.
DIPR /2791/ Tender / 2023
Superintending Engineer (H), Projects, Madurai Circle.
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

## INBRIEF

### China's May factory activity shrinks faster than expected

China's factory activity shrank faster than expected in May on weakening demand, heaping pressure on policymakers to shore up a patchy economic recovery and knocking Asian financial markets lower. The official manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) fell to a five-month low of 48.8, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on Wednesday, down from 49.2 in April and below the 50-point mark that separates expansion from contraction. REUTERS

### Adani may raise $3.5 billion via share sale in 3 group firms

The Adani Group is looking to raise about $3.5 billion via equity share sale to institutional investors in a comeback strategy after the group was hit by a damning report of a U.S. short seller. While boards of Adani Enterprises Ltd. and Adani Transmission Ltd. have approved raising up to ₹21,000 crore (over $2.5 billion) through share sale to qualified institutional investors, the board of Adani Green Energy Ltd. is likely to approve raising up to $1 billion, sources said. PTI

### 'Expansion of bank credit to industry slowed to 7% in April'

Growth of bank credit to industry decelerated to 7% in April, from 8% in the corresponding month of the previous year, according to Reserve Bank of India data. The RBI also said in its 'Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit - April 2023' that personal loans grew 19.4% YoY as against 14.4% in the year-earlier period, mainly driven by housing and vehicle loans. Loans to agriculture and allied activities improved to 16.7%, from 10.6%. Bank credit growth to the services sector accelerated to 21.6%, from 11.2% in the year-earlier period. PTI

# 'Risks to 6.5% growth goal more evenly balanced now'

Sustained growth momentum across sectors, along with rising private investments and public capex spending offering buffers against external risks, says Chief Economic Advisor Nageswaran

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

**Sanguine outlook:** CEA stresses the need to take the momentum from the last fiscal year into consideration. PTI

Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran expressed confidence that the risks to India's projected GDP growth of 6.5% in 2023-24 were more evenly balanced now compared with a few months ago, as sustained growth momentum across sectors along with rising private investments and public capex spending would act as buffers against external risks.

"We are very pleased to have a story of both sustained economic momentum, combined with macro-economic and fiscal stability, and we look forward to another year of solid economic performance," Mr. Nageswaran said after the National Statistical Office released its first national income estimates for 2022-23.

While the CEA conceded that the "better than expected [7.2% GDP growth] numbers for 2022-23" would weigh on this year's growth, he stressed the need to take the momentum into consideration.

"We have seen enough information about the momentum in the purchasing managers' indices [S&P Global PMI], credit growth, private sector capital formation and the revenue collections... auguring well for its ability to maintain capital investment plans and so on," he said.

# Deloitte flags APSEZ transactions in audit

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

Auditor Deloitte flagged three transactions, including recoveries from a contractor identified in the Hindenburg report, as it issued a qualified opinion on the accounts of Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone.

In the auditors' report on the audit of the 2022-23 financials, Deloitte highlighted transactions with three entities, which the company said were unrelated parties. Deloitte however said it could not attest to the company's statement as no independent external examination had been done to prove the claims.

"The evaluation performed by the Group does not constitute sufficient appropriate audit evidence for the purposes of our audit," Deloitte said in notes to APSEZ's financials.

# Fiscal deficit narrows to 6.4%, meets target

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

The Centre's fiscal deficit narrowed to 6.4% of the GDP in 2022-23 from 6.71% in FY22, as anticipated by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget in February.

In the Union Budget, the government had said it aimed to further bring down the fiscal deficit – a key indicator of borrowing – during the financial year 2023-24 to 5.9% of gross domestic product (GDP).

The Controller General of Accounts (CGA) said the fiscal deficit in absolute terms was ₹17,33,131 crore (provisional), marginally down from the amount projected in the Revised Estimates (RE) in the Budget.

CGA said the government received ₹24.56 lakh crore (101% of corresponding RE 2022-23 of total receipts) during 2022-23.

It comprised ₹20.97 lakh crore tax revenue (net to Centre), ₹2.86 lakh crore of non-tax revenue and ₹72,187 crore of non-debt capital receipts.

The Centre's total expenditure was ₹41.89 lakh crore (100% of corresponding RE 2022-23)

# April core sector output growth slows to six-month low of 3.5%

**Vikas Dhoot**
NEW DELHI

India's eight core sectors' output growth eased from 3.6% in March to 3.5% in April, marking the slowest pace in six months with half of the sectors, including electricity and natural gas, logging contractions.

Crude oil production shrank 3.5%, the 11th straight month of contraction. Natural gas output dropped 2.8% and refinery products slid 1.5%, the first such decline since November for both these sectors.

Cement, steel and fertilisers recorded strong upticks to offset the declines. Cement output rebounded from a 0.6% contraction in March to surge 11.6%, the fastest pace in five months.

Steel production grew 12.1% in April, the swiftest in three months, while fertiliser production accelerated 23.5%, marking the highest growth in more than a year. Coal output rose 9%, slowing from March's 12.2% pace.

Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis linked the slide in the oil products basket to lower demand, in addition to a tendency to prefer imports and curtail domestic crude output when global crude prices were benign. The 23.5% surge in fertilizer output was as expected in preparation for the kharif sowing season, he noted. Mr. Sabnavis said he expects the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) to have grown 2-3% in April.

## MARKETS

### MARKET WATCH

| | WEDNESDAY | % CHANGE |
|---|---|---|
| Sensex | 62,622 | -0.55 |
| US Dollar | 82.75 | -0.10 |
| Gold | 60,400 | 0.76 |
| Brent oil | 72.80 | -1.31 |

### NIFTY 50

| | PRICE | CHANGE |
|---|---|---|
| Adani Enter | 2493.35 | -3.10 |
| Adani Ports | 738.85 | 4.80 |
| Apollo Hosp | 4621.95 | 22.80 |
| Asian Paints | 3192.95 | 48.55 |
| Axis Bank | 914.85 | -22.60 |
| Bajaj Auto | 4567.15 | -24.75 |
| Bajaj Finserv | 1451.05 | -14.80 |
| Bajaj Finance | 6989.85 | -15.95 |
| Bharti Airtel | 849.90 | 31.45 |
| BPCL | 363.50 | 3.10 |
| Britannia Ind | 4657.05 | 83.80 |
| Cipla | 953.05 | -6.80 |
| Coal India | 241.25 | -3.05 |
| Divis Lab | 3443.60 | -14.40 |
| Dr Reddys Lab | 4501.05 | -17.85 |
| Eicher Motors | 3671.95 | -6.40 |
| Grasim Ind | 1718.35 | -6.80 |
| HCL Tech | 1145.10 | 9.25 |
| HDFC | 2640.40 | -52.95 |
| HDFC Bank | 1610.85 | -25.90 |
| HDFC Life | 592.35 | 7.20 |
| Hero MotoCorp | 2759.90 | -19.25 |
| Hindalco | 405.90 | -7.20 |
| Hind Unilever | 2667.55 | 11.00 |
| ICICI Bank | 949.15 | -0.80 |
| IndusInd Bank | 1286.60 | -6.65 |
| Infosys | 1318.30 | -5.55 |
| ITC | 445.50 | -4.40 |
| JSW Steel | 696.30 | -8.30 |
| Kotak Bank | 2014.35 | 39.65 |
| L&T | 2205.65 | -5.15 |
| M&M | 1319.00 | -9.45 |
| Maruti Suzuki | 9367.70 | -15.65 |
| NestleIndia | 21673.10 | 98.65 |
| NTPC | 173.85 | -2.95 |
| ONGC | 154.90 | -3.95 |
| PowerGrid Corp | 233.85 | -1.25 |
| Reliance Ind | 2469.90 | -50.05 |
| SBI Life | 1235.00 | 19.10 |
| State Bank | 579.85 | -12.95 |
| Sun Pharma | 975.35 | 15.75 |
| TataConsumerProduct | 798.65 | 7.75 |
| Tata Motors | 526.30 | 7.50 |
| Tata Steel | 105.80 | -1.25 |
| TCS | 3289.50 | -26.70 |
| Tech Mahindra | 1115.55 | 17.15 |
| Titan | 2823.25 | 20.75 |
| UltraTech Cement | 7870.05 | -31.90 |
| UPL | 685.10 | -3.95 |
| Wipro | 403.65 | 1.15 |

### EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 31

| CURRENCY | TT BUY | TT SELL |
|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | 82.52 | 82.84 |
| Euro | 88.05 | 88.39 |
| British Pound | 101.95 | 102.35 |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 59.01 | 59.24 |
| Chinese Yuan | 11.63 | 11.67 |
| Swiss Franc | 90.56 | 90.91 |
| Singapore Dollar | 60.89 | 61.13 |
| Canadian Dollar | 60.46 | 60.70 |
| Malaysian Ringitt | 17.87 | 17.95 |
| Australian Dollar | 53.46 | 53.67 |

Source:Indian Bank

# Veranda set to buy 7 edtech companies for ₹400 crore

**N. Anand**
CHENNAI

Veranda Learning Solutions is on the verge of acquiring seven edtech firms via wholly owned subsidiary Veranda Administrative Learning Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (VALS) for ₹400 crore, ED and Chairman Kalpathi S. Suresh said.

The entities – Educare Infrastructure, Six Phrase, Smart Bridge, Talent Academy, Talent Publications, Phire Learning, and Bassure – would function under VALS as a single entity with respective brand names. "It is a cash (₹120 crore)-cum-stock (₹280 crore) deal," Mr. Suresh said during an interaction.

"We expect the transaction to close in a month."

# SEBI moots tightening disclosures for FPIs

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator SEBI came out with a proposal mandating enhanced disclosures from high-risk Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to guard against possible circumvention of the minimum public shareholding requirement.

This comes after SEBI observed that some FPIs have concentrated a substantial portion of equity portfolio in a single investee company. In some cases, the concentrated holdings have also been near static and maintained for a long time.

**'Circumventing norms'**

"Such concentrated investments raise the concern and possibility that promoters of such corporate groups, or other investors acting in concert, could be using the FPI route for circumventing regulatory requirements such as that of maintaining Minimum Public Shareholding," the regulator said.

Under the proposal, such FPIs need to make additional disclosures about the ownership, economic interest and control of such funds. Also, the regulator has suggested categorising FPIs based on risk.

# Centre to sell up to 3% stake in Coal India via OFS route

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday proposed to sell up to 3% stake in Coal India Ltd. through the offer for sale route from June 1.

The Offer for Sale (OFS) will be open for retail and non-retail investors on June 1 and 2.

The proposal is to offload 9.24 crore shares amounting to a stake of 1.5% in the coal producer. Besides, there will be a green-shoe option for selling an equal amount of stake in case of over subscription, as per a filing.

At a closing price of ₹241.20 apiece on the BSE on Wednesday, the sale of 3% stake would be worth about ₹4,400 crore.

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU businessline.
FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR THE YOUNG WORLD THE HINDU

**M/s MOONRIVER RESORTS PRIVATE LTD (IN LIQUIDATION)**
Reg Office-As per MCA Records, "Vacha Loft", Flat No. 5, River View Apartments, Yacht Club Enclave, Konduruthy, Cochin Kerala 682013 India

**SALE ADVERTISEMENT**

Land Property and partially constructed resort building situated at Pallivasal village, Devikulam Taluk in Idukki District owned by the company M/s Moonriver Resorts Private Limited (in liquidation) is under sale as per the Rules and Regulations of IBC 2016.For more details write tocajasinjose@gmail.com, Ph:+91 7760031329, 9526253635

Sd -/-
CA Jasin Jose
**Liquidator M/s Moonriver Resorts Pvt Ltd**
**IBBIReg.No:**IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00695/2017-2018/11225
**Place-Aluva**
**Dated 01/06/2023**

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**
Office of the Executive Engineer,
BTM Layout Division, BBMP Commercial Complex, ,
2nd Floor, Lashkar Hosur Road, Adugodi, Bangalore - 30

No.EE/(BTM)/Ae/e-proc/01/2023-24 Date: 31.05.2023

**SHORT TERM NOTIFICATION**
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (1st-Call)

The Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division, invites tenders from eligible Contractors for the works detailed in the table below:

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work | Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs) | EMD (in Rs.) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Establishment of temporary control room for monsoon period (01.06.2023 to 30.09.2023) in BTM Layout Sub Division. | 05.00 | 12,500/- |
| 2 | Establishment of temporary control room for monsoon period (01.06.2023 to 30.09.2023) in Koramangala Sub Division. | 05.00 | 12,500/- |

**1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from GOK e-Procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in 2)** Last date for submission of Bid document : **07.06.2023 upto 4:00 p.m. 3)** Date of opening of Tender Document: **08.06.2023 at 4:30 p.m.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division.**

कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम (श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION (Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)
Website: www.esic.nic.in / www.esic.in
कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम अस्पताल, पीन्या सं. 11-55-1, प्लॉट सं.1, 5वां मेन रोड (कैंपस आई.टी.एफ.) यशवंतपुर उपनगर, यशवंतपुर, पो-बैंगलुरु जो.560 022
ESIC Hospital Peenya, 55-1-11, Plot No.1, 5th Main Road (FTI Campus), Survey No. 11, Yeshwanthapur, Bengaluru-22
Ph.No. 080-29723468, E-mail : ms-peenya.ka@esic.nic.in

No.492/39/ESICP/MRD

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the Public in general and all concerned, including patients and their legal representatives, that the ESIC Hospital, Peenya, Bengaluru-22 intends to destroys its old inpatient medical records from 2015 to 2017 as part of its Weeding Out process. This is to notify that in case any member of the Public or patient or his/her legal representative or any authority.

- Desire a copy of any of these records or
- Needs any information contained therein or
- Wants issue of or alteration in any document furnished on the basis of these records or
- Holds any stake/interest whatsoever in the contents of these records or 1 likely to hold any such stake/interest in the future.

Then, He/She may file an objection mentioning the details of the record in question in the office of the Medical Superintendent, ESIC Hospital, Peenya, Bengaluru-22 within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Incase no objection is received within the aforementioned period of 30 days, the above mentioned records will be destroyed forthwith, on any date after 1/7/2023 which is deemed suitable by the undersigned. No correspondence will be entertained regarding the matter after the efflux of time beyond the period of 30 days of publication of this notice.

**Sd/-**
**Medical Superintendent**
**ESIC Hospital, Peenya, Bengaluru-560022**

**Date: 2/6/2023**
**Place: Bengaluru**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE,
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
**Construction & Maintenance Group**
ISRO -TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC) Plot No.12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058
Fax: 080-28094180, Ph:080-28094182, 4541

**BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE**

1. On behalf of President of India, **Item rate E-Tenders** are invited from Contractors of appropriate class for the following works.

| | |
|---|---|
| NIT No. **24** | **ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/E-TN-12/2023- Dated: 31.05.2023** |
| Name of work | **Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of MCCB at P1, P2, P3 and LT Panel at Substation SCC campus, ISTRAC, Bengaluru** |
| Estimated Cost put to Tender | **Rs. 15.51 Lakhs** |
| Tender Document Details | **E-Tender** |
| Period of completion | **02 Months** |
| Period during which the tender document can be downloaded | **From 16.00 hrs on 01.06.2023 to 07.06.2023 till 16.00 hrs.** |
| Bid Clarification | **From 11.00 hrs on 02.06.2023 to 08.06.2023 till 16.00 hrs.** |
| Last date of reply to Bid Clarifications | **09.06.2023 up to 16.00 hrs.** |
| Last date and time for receipt of tenders | **12.06.2023 up to 16.00 hrs.** |
| Due date and time of opening of tenders. | **13.06.2023 after 11.00 hrs.** |
| Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) | **Rs. 31,020/-** |

2. Interested tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)** for eligibility criteria and other details from website **www.isro.gov.in and** download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

**Sd/- Group Head, CMG**

# Rane Holdings to divest entire stake in arm

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

Rane Holdings Ltd. has approved the sale of its entire investment in subsidiary Rane t4u Pvt. Ltd. in exchange for allotment of equity shares in eTrans Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

eTrans has been providing vehicle-tracking solutions to major corporate shippers and transporters since 2000.

As per the plan, 189 shares of eTrans are to be issued for every 10,466 shares of Rt4u. Equity shares of eTrans would be allotted for a value of ₹8.50 crore, RHL said in a filing.

# India seeks leeway to plan shift to sustainable aviation fuel

**Jagriti Chandra**
NEW DELHI

India asserted that global mandates for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) with 2050 as the target year was 'too early' and each country must be allowed to develop its strategy according to its national plans.

It also sought the support of UN Aviation watchdog ICAO to achieve carbon net-zero goals alongside other priorities in the aviation sector.

The 41st International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Assembly adopted a long-term global aspirational goal (LTAG) for international aviation of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 in support of the UNFCCC Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degree celsius and reach net zero by 2050.

This was preceded by a resolution at the 77th IATA annual general meeting in the U.S. on October 4, 2021, where a resolution was passed by member airlines committing themselves to achieving net-zero carbon emissions from their operations by 2050.

"Any global mandates for SAF with milestones to 2050 are too early as each State must be allowed time to develop its own strategy for reaching LTAG as per its national plans," said Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Rajiv Bansal at ICAO Global Implementation Support Symposium 2023.

Till SAF production and availability are ensured, any volumetric mandates will not be consistent with the ideology of LTAG, he added. India has pledged net zero by 2070 and to cut the carbon intensity of its economy by 45% by 2030.

FABULOUS FIVE

## You've done a miracle, Srinivasan tells Dhoni on CSK's triumph

FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

"Fantastic captain. You have done a miracle. Only you can do it. We are proud of the boys and team," N. Srinivasan. vice-chairman and MD, India Cements, the principal sponsor of CSK, told M.S. Dhoni. Srinivasan spoke to the CSK skipper over phone on Tuesday and invited him with CSK team for a get-together to celebrate the win.

IN HIGH ESTEEM

## Hazlewood praises the work ethic of RCB teammate Kohli

PTI

Josh Hazlewood has spoken highly of Royal Challengers Bangalore teammates Virat Kohli ahead of the World Test Championship final against India at The Oval starting June 7. The Australian pacer said Kohli's work ethics makes him the player that he is. "He is always out there (training) first and leaves last," Hazlewood said.

NEW WEAPON

## Murphy keen to add Ashwin-like carrom-ball to his repertoire

K.R. DEEPAK

Having studied R. Ashwin from close quarters during his maiden tour of India, young Australia off-spinner Todd Murphy wants to add the Indian tweaker's carrom ball to his bag of tricks ahead of next week's WTC final and the Ashes. "I am still working on that (carrom ball) but a long way off being able to do it the way Ravi Ashwin can."

SPINNERS' INFLUENCE

## WTC Final: Smith wary of India-like conditions at The Oval

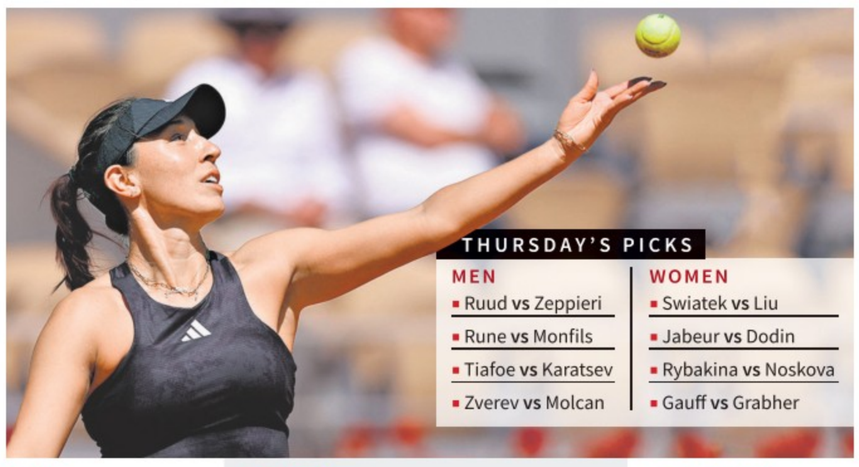
REUTERS

Australia's batting mainstay Steve Smith is expecting friendly conditions for batting for the WTC Final but feels the Aussies could face India-like conditions as the game goes on. "The Oval may assist the spinners occasionally, particularly as the game wears on and we could face some sort of similarities to what we had in India."

# Alcaraz, Sabalenka enter third round

Blinkova eliminates fifth seed Garcia; former champion Ostapenko out; Bopanna-Ebden pair exits but Bhambri-Myneni combine moves up

### The day in numbers




**21** The men's singles opening round at Roland-Garros witnessed 21 matches that went to the fifth set this year, surpassing the 1992 edition as the most in the first round at a single Grand Slam event in the history of the Open Era

**675** Frenchman Lucas Pouille is the lowest-ranked player to win a Roland-Garros match since Uruguayan Pablo Cuevas who was ranked 762 (2013)

**1,2,3** USA's **Jessica Pegula** is top-seeded in mixed doubles (with compatriot Austin Krajicek), 2nd-seeded in women's doubles (with compatriot Coco Gauff) and third-seeded in singles

**600** Brazil's Marcelo Melo, the 2015 French Open men's doubles champion, got his 600th career win with a three-set first round victory over Blumberg/Kecmanovic. Amongst the active players, Melo has the most wins on the ATP Tour

COMPILED BY NIHIT SACHDEVA

**Long-drawn duel:** Blinkova needed nine match-points to overcome Garcia. AFP

**IMPORTANT RESULTS**

**Men: Second round:** Ofner (Aut) bt 24-Korda (USA) 6-3, 7-6(1), 6-4; 5-Tsitsipas (Gre) bt Baena (Esp) 6-3, 7-6(4), 6-2; Kokkinakis (Aus) bt Wawrinka (Sui) 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-7(4), 6-3; 24-Shapovalov (Can) bt Arnaldi (Ita) 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

**Doubles: First round:** Bhambri & Myneni bt Rinderknech & Couacaud (Fra) 6-3, 6-2; Doumbia & Reboul (Fra) bt 6-Bopanna & Ebden (Aus) 7-5, 7-6(5); Ivashka & Popyrin (Aus) bt Sriram Balaji & Jeevan 6-3, 6-4.

**Women: Second round:** 2-Sabalenka bt Shymanovich 7-5, 6-2; 24-Potapova bt Sherif (Egy) 3-6, 6-4, 6-1; 28-Mertens (Bel) bt Osorio (Col) 6-3, 7-6(3); 3-Pegula (USA) bt Giorgi (Ita) 6-2, retd.; Blinkova bt 5-Garcia (Fra) 4-6, 6-3, 7-5; 9-Kasatkina bt Vondrousova (Cze) 6-3, 6-4; Stearns (USA) bt 17-Ostapenko (Lat) 6-3, 1-6, 6-2; Putintseva (Kaz) bt 19-Zheng (Chn) 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; 27-Begu (Rou) bt Errani (Ita) 6-3, 6-0; Pavlyuchenkova bt 15-Samsonova 4-6, 7-5, 7-5; Stephens (USA) bt Gracheva 6-2, 6-1.

FRENCH OPEN

**Agence France-Presse**
PARIS

World No.1 Carlos Alcaraz overcame a second set blip to defeat Japan's Taro Daniel and reach the French Open last 32 on Wednesday.

The Spanish star, who came through 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 against his 112th-ranked opponent, will face Denis Shapovalov for a place in the fourth round. Alcaraz, 20, is bidding to add the Roland Garros title to the U.S. Open he won in 2022.

The victory gave Alcaraz a 22nd win from 24 on clay in 2023, a run which has yielded titles on the surface in Buenos Aires, Madrid and Barcelona.

Shapovalov, the 26th seed, saw off Italy's Matteo Arnaldi in four sets to reach the third round here for the first time.

Earlier, World No. 2 and Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka cruised into the women's singles third round with a straight-sets win over fellow Belarusian Iryna Shymanovich.

In other women's matches, Russian Anna Blinkova needed nine match points to beat home hope and fifth seed Caroline Garcia 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 and American third seed Jessica Pegula booked her spot in the last 32 when opponent Camila Giorgi retired injured after losing the first set 6-2.

Former champion Jelena Ostapenko crashed out, though, losing 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 to the United States' Peyton Stearns.

In Wednesday's early action, Stefanos Tsitsipas cruised into the third round with a straight-sets win over Spaniard Roberto Carballes Baena.

The Greek fifth seed, the runner-up to Djokovic in 2021, claimed a 6-3, 7-6(4), 6-2 win on Court Suzanne Lenglen.

Thanasi Kokkinakis knocked out the 38-year-old Stan Wawrinka in a five-set roller-coaster to book a third round place at Roland Garros for the first time since 2015. World No. 108 Kokkinakis came through 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-7(4), 6-3 in four hours and 38 minutes against the 2015 champion.

In men's doubles, sixth-seeded Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden's campaign ended with a 5-7, 6-7 (5) defeat to the French pair of Fabien Reboul and Sadio Doumbia.

Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni defeated French wildcards Arthur Rinderknech and Enzo Couacaud 6-3, 6-2 while Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and N. Sriram Balaji lost 3-6, 4-6 to Ilya Ivashka (Belarus) and Alexei Popyrin (Australia).

# Dhoni will be taking medical advice for his knee injury: CSK CEO

**Cause for concern:** Dhoni played the entire IPL with a heavily strapped left knee. ANI

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

Chennai Super Kings captain M.S. Dhoni will be seeking expert opinion from sports orthopaedics in Mumbai on the state of his dodgy left knee before taking a call on his treatment, CEO Kasi Viswanathan said on Wednesday.

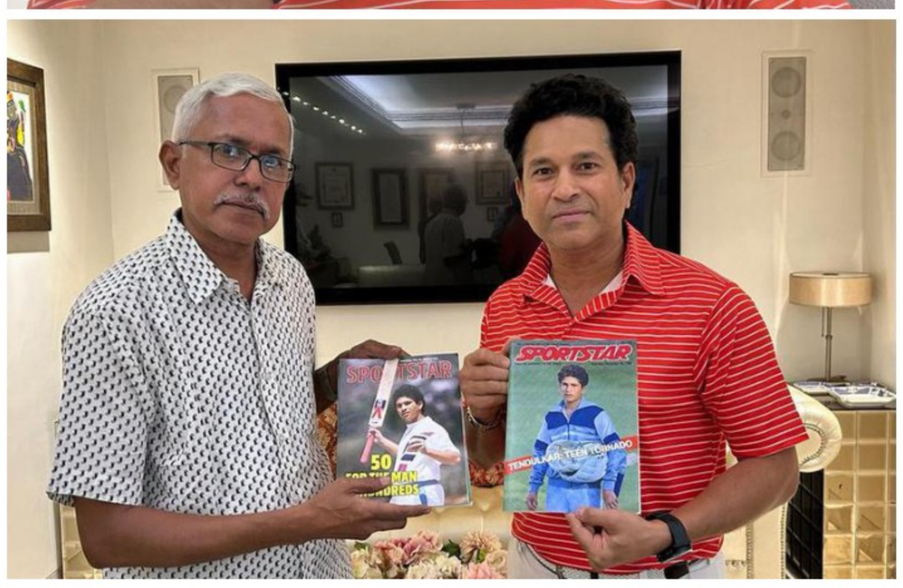
Dhoni had played the entire IPL season with a heavily strapped left knee and although he looked absolutely okay while keeping, more often than not batted as late as No. 8 and didn't look swift while running between the wickets.

"Yes, it is true that Dhoni will be taking medical advice for his left knee injury and accordingly decide. If surgery is advised, it can only be ascertained after reports come out, it will be completely his call," Viswanathan said.

Is there a possibility that Dhoni will decide against playing next season and thus free up a purse of ₹15 crore for the mini auction, the CEO replied: "Frankly, we are not even thinking on those lines as we haven't reached that stage.

"It will be completely Dhoni's call. But I can tell you in CSK, we haven't entertained those thoughts," Viswanathan said.

## *Lensman and his muse*




**Bookending a legacy:** Sachin Tendulkar, who shares a special relationship with *Sportstar*, holds a copy of the 1989 edition where he first featured on the cover. V.V. Krishnan, who clicked that photograph, also handed him the special issue marking the icon's 50th birthday. V.V. KRISHNAN & SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Pujara's inputs will be invaluable, says Gavaskar

**Press Trust of India**
PORTSMOUTH

Sunil Gavaskar on Wednesday reckoned Cheteshwar Pujara could provide valuable insight to his Indian teammates ahead of the WTC final against Australia, having played extensively in the English County Championship.

With Pujara's knowledge and captaincy experience (at Sussex), his inputs could prove invaluable, especially against Australian batter Steve Smith, who is also a part of his county side.

The WTC final is scheduled to be held at the Oval in London from June 7 to 11.

"The fact that he has been around will mean that he will have also seen how the pitch has been behaving at The Oval.

"He might not have played at The Oval, but he would have kept an eye on what is happening and his inputs will be invaluable as far as the batting unit is concerned or even as far as the captaincy is concerned," Gavaskar told *Star Sports*.

Gavaskar also said the Indian batters, coming off the IPL, will have to adjust their bat speed ahead of the WTC final, and advised them to play as late as possible.

"They'll need to play in England as late as possible to allow for the swing to do it's bit, not to reach out for the ball which often a lot of people make the mistake having played on good pitches.

"Wherever you play on good pitches, you tend to play through the line, not necessarily half-volleys, but in England those deliveries can move just that little bit. So, I think those are the things that as a batter you need to watch out for."

He asked the bowlers to bowl fuller length deliveries to allow the Dukes ball to swing.

"As a bowling unit also you'll need to bowl a much fuller length for your new ball, for the bowlers to be able to get the movement in the air as well as after pitching."

# India thrashes S. Korea, enters Jr. Asia Cup final

HOCKEY

**Press Trust of India**
SALALAH (OMAN)

The Indian hockey team produced a dominant performance to outclass South Korea 9-1 and enter the final of the Junior Asia Cup here on Wednesday.

In the title clash on Thursday, India will meet the winner of the second semifinal between Malaysia and Pakistan.

Dhami Boby Singh led the way for India with a hat-trick, and was declared the Player of the Match at the Salalah Sports Complex.

While Dhami found the net in the 31st, 39th and 55th minutes, it was Lakra Sunit who opened the scoring for India with his 13th minute strike.

### Doubling the lead

In the 19th minute, Hundal Araijeet Singh doubled the lead before Dhami got into the act.

Angad Bir Singh and Uttam Singh scored in the 34th and 38th minute respectively as India led 6-0 by the end of the third quarter in what was turning out to be a thoroughly one-sided match.

The Koreans found their only goal through Keonyeol Hwang in the 46th minute, as the Indian juggernaut continued in the remaining minutes of the game.

Vishnukant Singh made it 7-1 when he found the net in the 51st minute, which was India's first strike in the fourth and final quarter.

Barely two minutes after Dhami completed a fine hat-trick and with just three minutes left in the match, India rounded off the tally with a goal from Sharda Nand Tiwari.

**Dominant performance:** The South Korean defence was left in tatters as the Indians ran riot. COURTESY HOCKEY INDIA

**The result:**
India 9 (Lakra Sunit 13, Hundal Araijeet Singh 19, Dhami Boby Singh 31, 39, 55, Angad Bir Singh 34, Uttam Singh 38, Vishnukant Singh 51, Sharda Nand Tiwari 57) bt South Korea 1 (Keonyeol Hwang 46).

## INBRIEF

### Dalot signs new contract with Manchester United

Manchester United defender Diogo Dalot has signed a contract extension that will keep him at Old Trafford until at least 2028. Dalot's new five-year deal includes the option of a further season. Dalot spent the 2020-21 season on loan at AC Milan.

### Ireland faces England in one-off Test match

England will welcome Ireland in a one-off Test match at Lord's from June 1-4. The English has been pinning down one team after another since appointing Ben Stokes as the Test captain and Brendon McCullum as head coach. With a win against Ireland, Stokes' side would be looking to send a warning shot to Australia ahead of the Ashes. England is coming off a 3-0 win over Pakistan in a three-Test series in December. On the other hand, Andrew Balbirnie and his team are looking to stop the English juggernaut.

### ISL winner Ahmed Jahouh joins Odisha FC

Super Cup champion Odisha FC on Wednesday announced the signing of Moroccan midfield dynamo Ahmed Jahouh, an Indian Super League title and Shield winner. Jahouh has been signed on a two-year contract. Jahouh previously played under Sergio Lobera at FC Goa and Mumbai City FC and has an impressive trophy cabinet.

### Jacobs out of Florence Diamond League with injury

Olympic champion Marcell Jacobs will miss Friday's 100m race at the Diamond League meeting in Florence as he continues to recover from a back injury, the Italian athletics federation announced. "The recovery process for Jacobs does not appear to be fully completed yet," the federation said in a statement.

**LIVE TELECAST**

**BWF**: Thailand Open, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 10.30 a.m.

**Roland Garros**: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 p.m. onwards

**England vs Ireland**: Only Test, Sony LIV, 3.30 p.m.

**Squash**: El Gouna International, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 9.30 p.m.

**NBA**: (finals), MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6 a.m. (Friday)

# Gukesh floors Firouzja, leads with Caruana

Indian youngster punishes the World No. 2 in live ratings in 37 moves; Anish Giri, Wesley So and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov win their Armageddon games

**CHESS**

**Sports Bureau**

Continuing his stunning form, D. Gukesh brought down Alireza Firouzja – World No. 2 in live ratings – to open his campaign in the 11th Norway Chess in Stavanger, Norway, on Tuesday.

On a day when World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen lost to Fabiano Caruana, Gukesh nailed Firouzja in 37 moves to be the day's other winner in the classical time format in the elite 10-player field.

Later, Anish Giri, Wesley So and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov won their Armageddon games to follow the leaders.

**Shrewd moves:** Gukesh made the most of Firouzja's time pressure to come out the winner.
TWITTER/NORWAYCHESS

**The upper hand**

In the Italian game, Gukesh played black and recognised Firouzja's bishop-move on the 28th turn as his chance to gain the upper hand.

Coupled with the fact that Alireza came under tremendous time-pressure – needing to make nine moves in 20 seconds without increment – Gukesh held a position of comfort.

Alireza traded his rook for Gukesh's menacing knight but that did not ease the pressure.

Soon, after exchanging his queen for Gukesh's rook-pair, the Iran-born French national discovered that the black queen was ready to wreak more havoc.

With one second left on the clock for three moves, Alireza stared at his losing position and resigned after 37 moves.

The victory over Alireza, rated 2785, was worth 5.7 rating points for Gukesh. The Indian youngster moved to the 15th spot in World rankings with a live rating of 2742.

As per the tournament rules, for winning the classical game, Gukesh and Caruana gained three points and shared the lead.

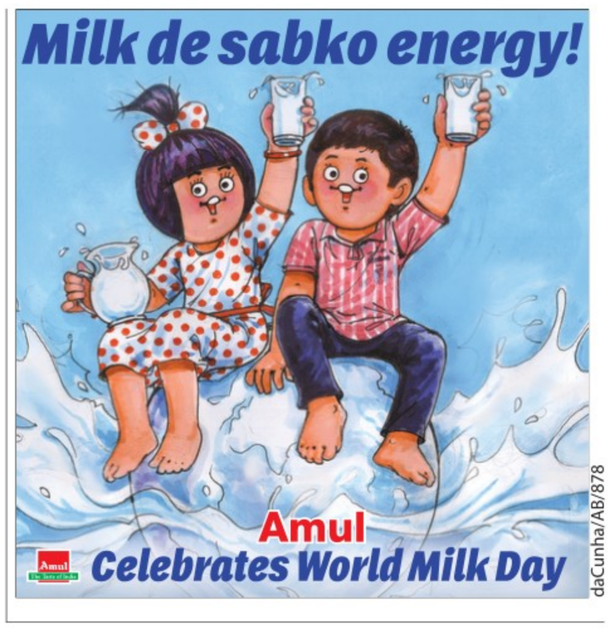
Since a drawn game is worth a point, a victory in the Armageddon games brought in an additional half-point to Mamedyarov, Giri and So.

**The results: First round:** Alireza Firouzja (Fra) lost to D. Gukesh (3); Fabiano Caruana (USA, 3) bt Magnus Carlsen (Nor); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb) drew with Anish Giri (Ned).

Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze) drew with Aryan Tari (Nor); Wesley So (USA) drew with Hikaru Nakamura (USA)

**Armageddon:** Mamedyarov (1.5) bt Tari (1); Abdusattorov (1) lost to Giri (1.5); So (1.5) bt Nakamura (1).

**Second-round pairings:** Gukesh-Nakamura; Carlsen-So; Tari-Abdusattorov; Giri-Caruana; Firouzja-Mamedyarov.




# IOC for wrestlers' safety and unbiased investigation

**Sports Bureau**
KOLKATA

Reacting over the issue of the wrestlers' protest, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has said that the athletes' treatment on Sunday was "very disturbing" and insisted that the authorities concerned must follow up on their allegations "by an unbiased, criminal investigation."

In a statement, the IOC said, "more steps have to follow before concrete actions become visible. We urge that the safety and well being of these athletes is duly considered throughout this process and that this investigation will be concluded."

The IOC said it has been in close contact with United World Wrestling (UWW) over the issue. "The IOC will continue to support UWW in all their efforts and in the framework of the IOC Guidelines for International Federations and NOCs for safeguarding athletes from harassment and abuse in sport."

The IOC also urged the IOA "to take all necessary actions to protect the athletes and to make sure the elections of Wrestling Federation of India are happening as planned" in line with UWW regulations.

# 'India is doing a lot of right things so far'

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

Five-time world champion Magnus Carlsen feels it is only a matter of time before India becomes a leading chess nation, saying the country is "doing a lot of right things".

"I think India is doing a lot of right things so far, and it is a matter of time before it is clearly the leading chess nation in the world," Carlsen was quoted in a press release.

The Norwegian GM is one of the icon players for the inaugural Global Chess League, which is the world's first and largest official franchise league of its kind, with chess players from all over the world competing in a unique joint team format.

The GCL is a joint venture between Tech Mahindra and the international chess federation (FIDE), which will witness six teams competing in a minimum of 10 matches each in a double round-robin, rapid format from June 21 to July 2 in Dubai.

"It is an exciting prospect for me to be a part of. This will be something new. Something that has not been done this way in over-the-board chess. I am looking forward to exploring this format for future." The league will see each of the six franchises play a total of 10 matches in a double round-robin format, with the winner of each match being decided in a best-of-six board scoring system played simultaneously.

The top two teams will qualify for the final on July 2 and the winner will be crowned world champion.

# Kiran George stuns Shi Yuqi; Saina, Lakshya and Satwik-Chirag advance

**THAILAND OPEN**

**Press Trust of India**
BANGKOK

India's Kiran George scripted a stunning straight-game win over World No. 9 Shi Yuqi of China but P.V. Sindhu made an opening round exit from the Thailand Open Super 500 tournament here on Wednesday.

Ashmita Chaliha and Saina Nehwal also made winning starts to their campaign in women's singles, while Lakshya Sen and World No. 4 pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also progressed to the pre-quarterfinals.

On a day when K. Srikanth and B. Sai Praneeth also failed to cross the opening hurdle, Kiran notched up a 21-18, 22-20 win over third seed Shi.

**Memorable:** Kiran scored one of the biggest wins of his career.
TWITTER/BAI_MEDIA

Lakshya dug deep to eke out a hard-fought 21-23, 21-15, 21-15 win over Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei, while top seeds Satwik and Chirag too had to work hard to outwit the Danish combination of Rasmus Kjaer and Frederik Sogaard 21-13, 18-21, 21-17.

Sindhu, however, faltered in the opening round, going down fighting 8-21, 21-18, 18-21 to Canada's Michelle Li.

In other matches, Ashmita beat compatriot Malvika Bansod 17-21, 14-21, while Saina defeated Canada's Wen Yu Zhang 21-13, 21-7.

**The results:**
**Men:** Kiran George bt Shi Yuqi (Chn) 21-18, 22-20; Lakshya Sen bt Wang Tzu Wei (Tpe) 21-23, 21-15, 21-15; Weng Hong Yang (Chn) bt K. Srikanth 21-8, 16-21, 21-14; Christo Popov (Fra) bt B. Sai Praneeth 21-14, 21-16; Ng Tze Yong (Mas) bt Priyanshu Rajawat 21-19, 21-10; Magnus Johanesen (Den) bt Sameer Verma 21-15, 21-15; **Doubles:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Rasmus Kjaer & Frederik Sogaard (Den) 21-13, 18-21, 21-17.
**Women:** Saina Nehwal bt Wen Yu Zhang (Can) 21-13, 21-7; Ashmita Chaliha bt Malvika Bansod 17-21, 14-21; Michelle Li (Can) bt P.V. Sindhu 21-8, 18-21, 21-18;

**Doubles:** Baek Ha Na & Lee So Hee (Kor) bt K. Ashwini Bhat & Shikha Gautam 21-11, 21-6.

## BENGALURU ROUND-UP

**Hariharan stars with a hat-trick**

Hariharan's hat-trick helped Ashco Hockey Club defeat Naveen Hockey Club 5-1 in the D.S. Murthy Memorial Hockey Tournament here.

**The results:**
Ashco HC 5 (Hariharan 2, 16, 18, Ganesh 14, Sathyaguru 48) bt Naveen HC 1 (Suraj 49).

**Big win for Stadium FC**

Stadium FC defeated Samanth FC 10-0 in the KSFA Bangalore North & South Zone 'C' division football championship here.

**The results:**
GRK Youths FC drew with PASS FC 2-2; Bangalore Balaharakha FA bt VAS FC 3-2; Agniputra Academy bt Bangalore Panthers 5-1; Stadium FC bt Samanth FC 10-0.

**DPS East coasts to title win**

DPS East defeated Six CA by nine wickets in the final of the Tiger Cup under-14 tournament.

**The scores:** Six Cricket Academy 123 in 28.2 overs (Om Agarwalla 38, Manish Patil 28, Arush Jain 4/10) lost to DPS (East) 124/1 in 20.3 overs (R. Nithin 50, Shahan Shadab 50).

**Sharvesh and Vineeth in the limelight**

Sharvesh (25 points) and Vineeth (24 points) shone as Yelahanka New Town BC defeated All Star Academy in the State 'C' Division men's basketball league.

**The results:**
Dominate BC Chikkamagalur 69 (Darshan 27, Vinod 11) bt BCBC 49 (Deepak 19, Ashrof 11).
KGF BC 57 (Harish 21, Dhanush 15) bt Nalvadi KR BC 56 (Mahesh 19, Abhishek 17).
Mounts Club 79 (Vignesh 20, Joel 20) bt Inspire BC Dharwad 57 (Mohsin 18, Varun 12).
Yelahanka New Town BC 83 (Sharvesh 25, Vineeth 24) bt All Star Academy Mysore 57 (Chandan 25).
SBI BC 58 (Sudarshan 22, Sudarshan Jacob 12) bt Kollegal BC 31 (Shashi 10).
CJC 49 (Pradyumna 18, Vinod 10) bt SAI Dharwad 18.

**Bangalore Kickers rides on Sushil's hat-trick**

Sushil scores a hat-trick as Bangalore Kickers FC wreck Southern Blues FC for 6 in the BDFA 'C' Division league championship.

**The results:**
Bangalore Kickers FC bt Southern Blues FC 6-0; Excelsiors FC bt Town SC Hoskote 4-3; Pillanna Garden bt Bangalore Yellows FC 3-1; Jupiters FC bt Active Union FC 4-1.

**Vultures fly, thanks to Srujan's ton**

Srujan Nandan (157) powered Vultures CC against Whirlwind Cricketers in the KSCA under-19 inter-club tournament here.

**The scores:**
Vultures Cricket Club 485/4 in 50 overs (Srujan Nandan 157, K.P. Karthikeya 106, C.R. Kumarswamy 84, Aarav Mahesh 78, C. Chahal Chandra 4/79) drew with Whirlwind Cricketers 17/5 in 15.4 overs (Shikhar Shetty 3/1) (match abandoned due to rain).
Hammonds Cricket Club 108 in 35 overs (C.M. Gagan 4/25) lost to Engrades Cricket Club 109/4 in 27.4 overs (Nihansh Poojary 46, Karna Surya Vamshi 41).
Minerva Cricket Club 156 in 46.2 overs (Abhishek Pasupathy 54, Shashank Kiran 3/18) lost to Rajajinagar Cricketers 159/4 in 34.3 overs (Aryan Inchal 100).
Modern Cricket Club 167 in 37.1 overs (Pranav Aswath 53, Nishchinth Parmashwar 28) drew with Friends Union Cricket Club (1) 44/1 in 8 overs (match was abandoned due to rain).
Sapphire Cricket Club 171/8 in 50 overs (Mayank R. Miraskar 38, Abhinav Jha 26, N. Prateekh 3/42) lost to Bangalore Sports Club 172/3 in 34 overs (S. Ananth 92, Yashas Vihaan 42).
Doorvani Cricketers (1) 177 in 38.2 overs (M. Shivu 47, Harshit Pai 25, Huzaifa M. Bagi 4/41) lost to Visweswarapuram Cricket Club (1) 178/7 in 36.1 overs (Huzaifa Bagi 33, Mohammed Nouman Asad 29).
Vijaya Cricket Club 309/3 in 50 overs (Akshath Prabhakar 102, R.R. Rohan 102, Samit Dravid 62, A. Yuvraj 25) bt Sir Syed Cricketers 192 in 43 overs (Samith Prabhu 42, Pragyan Hota 28, Yashwant Reddy 28, Aryan Mawa 27, Ronak Yelwal 3/44).
Cavaliers Cricket Club 190 in 43.5 overs (H.B. Gagandeep 54, P. Kishan 28, Arman Kumar Sah 4/44, R. Prajwal Gowda 3/36) drew with Wilson Garden Cricket Club 43/2 in 10 overs (match abandoned due to rain).

**Bangalore SC beats RV College**

B.C. Vinay (109 n.o.) helped Bangalore Sports Club defeat R.V. College of Engineering by 100 runs in the KSCA Group I, Division III league here.

**The scores:**
Engrades Cricket Club 178 in 47.1 overs (Karna Surya Vamshi 53, S. Asif Basha 39, Gnane 36, Arvind 4/34, K. Nagendra 3/18) bt Hammonds Cricket Club 172 in 48.3 overs (N.G. Kushal 57, Sharana Basava 34, Abhishek Joseph Koshi 31, K. Vijay Kumar 4/26, Kushal Gouda 3/32).
Bangalore Sports Club 264/6 in 50 overs (B.C. Vinay 109, P. Santosh Krishna 90, H.S. Sumanth 3/29) bt R.V. College of Engineering 164 in 38.2 overs (Naveen Shankara 58, M.G.R. Vinay 26, Sunil S. Kumar 4/28).
Minerva Cricket Club 281/8 in 50 overs (Arnav Arun Bharadwaj 80, M.R. Prithvi Raj 54, A.G. Anshuman 34, J. Tejas 32, P.G. Sushameendra Achar 26, Ronak Yelwal 3/58) bt Friends Union Cricket Club (2) 176 in 45.1 overs (Pranav R. Babu 54, P.G. Sushameendra Achar 3/30, M.P. Sachin Pande 3/37).
Doorvani Cricketers (1) 215/9 in 50 overs (M. Keerthi 30, Md. Kaiser 29, B. Vineeth 28, B.M. Mahesh Patel 25) bt Jolly Cricketers 198 in 39.2 overs (R. Prateeksh 37, Roshan Ashwathaiah 5/25).
Malleswaram Gymkhana 190 in 39.4 overs (Arnav Mishra 96, B. Tanu 5/54, R. Madhusudan 3/33) lost to Visweswarapuram Cricket Club (2) 191/4 in 39 overs (H.R. Kiran 57, Saurabh Shrivasthav 38, Shoaib Manager 37, S. Vajra 30).
Whirlwind Cricketers 279/9 in 50 overs (Gyan Somaiah 76, Mitesh Madhan 42, Shreyank Sagar 41, Jay Desai 3/38) bt Cavaliers Club 197 in 42.2 overs (B. Yogesh Kumar 52, Yash Jadhav 43, Babu Gaddam 4/35).

# Karman Kaur moves into the second round in Portugal

**TENNIS**

**Sports Bureau**

Karman Kaur Thandi beat Amandine Hesse of France 7-6(2), 6-4 in the first round of the $40,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Montemor-O-Novo, Portugal, on Wednesday.

**Other results:**
**$80,000 Challenger, Little Rock, USA: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Nam Ji Sung (Kor) & Artem Sitak (Nzl) bt Arjun Kadhe & Daniel Masur (Ger) 1-6, 7-6(3), [10-6].
**$15,000 ITF men, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand: First round:** Palaphoom Kovapitukted (Tha) bt Rishab Agarwal 6-3, 2-6, 6-3; Nitin Kumar Sinha bt S.D. Prajwal Dev 5-4 (retd.); Credit Chaiyarin (Tha) bt Arjun Mahadevan 6-3, 6-2; Siddharth Vishwakarma bt Yuttana Charoenphon (Tha) 6-1, 6-4.
**Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Siddhant Banthia & Finn Reyolds (Nzl) bt Jordan Chiu (USA) & Ha Minh Duc Vu (Vie) 6-4, 6-1.
**$40,000 ITF women, Otocec: Doubles (pre-quarters):** Sada Nahimana (Bdi) & Ivana Sebestova (Cze) bt Victoria Miboko (Can) & Saumya Vig 6-4, 7-5.
**$25,000 ITF women, La Marsa, Tunisia: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Rutuja Bhosale & Justina Milkulskyte (Ltu) bt Nefisa Berberovic (BIH) & Maria Kozyreva 7-6(3), 4-6, [10-5]; Emeline Dartron & Yasmin Mansouri (Fra) bt Gozal Ainitdinova (Kaz) & Sahaja Yamalapalli 4-6, 6-4, [10-4].
**$25,000 ITF women, Yecla, Spain: Doubles (pre-quarters):** Riya Bhatia & Vasanti Shinde bt Lucia Peyre (Arg) & Sofia Rojas (USA) 6-2, 6-4; Suhani Patil & Javiera Verdugo (Chi) bt Frankie Wingate & Hilary Woodham (Nzl) 6-2, 6-4.